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**TOP JOBS SECTION 3**

A-level pass rate climbs to 86%

## Scramble for places at universities

By JOHN O'LEARY AND DAVID CHARTER

RECORD A-level pass rates to be announced today will trigger an unprecedented scramble for places at leading universities and increase pressure on the Government to reform the examinations system.

More than half of this autumn's 290,000 higher education places had been filled last night, as admissions tutors coped with the 15th successive rise in A-level grades. Almost 86 per cent of candidates passed their examinations, with 53.8 per cent achieving grades A to C — the traditional requirement for a university place.

The improvements — in both cases by about two percentage points over last year — will leave fewer places to be allocated and accelerate the clearing process that gives disappointed applicants a second chance.

Several leading universities said yesterday that they would have no places in clearing because of improved grades, and officials said that at least one medical school might exceed its quota. Competition for popular courses will be intense, and most applicants should have secured places by early next week.

While Oxford and Cambridge never use the clearing process, almost all provincial universities usually have some places available. But Bristol, Durham, Edinburgh and Nottingham said yesterday that they were unlikely to be in clearing this year.

Tony Higgins, chief executive of the University and College Admissions Service, said: "This is the first time that more than half of the places have been filled by this stage, but it is not a crisis. Because more people have got first choice places, there will be fewer people chasing fewer courses in clearing."

Lord Henley, the junior education minister, offered congratulations on the results and urged critics not to equate



"What a coincidence — I used to run an A-level retake college, too"

improvement with falling standards. "Parents, teachers and young people themselves must be sick and tired of hearing and reading doom merchants calling into question the efforts and achievements the results reflect." But Opposition parties called for the number of examining boards to be cut to ensure consistency in marking.

Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, was said to be planning to extend the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority's powers to cover A-levels — possibly in the Queen's Speech — while discussion continues on the merits of a single examinations council.

Examination boards and teachers' leaders insisted that there was no evidence of standards slipping and the proportion of A grades rose more slowly than other pass rates — by just under half a percentage point to 16 per cent. Kathleen Tattersall, representing the boards, said it was "the quality of work alone" that determined grades. "We refuse entirely that the competition between boards lowers standards and leads to a higher success rate."

But academics and employers' organisations expressed doubts about the impact of

modular A levels. These allow unlimited re-takes of units covering roughly a term's work and students can opt not to register for the final examination if they are likely to fail.

The only major study of standards in modular A levels concluded that students gained at least one grade higher than candidates of similar ability on traditional courses, and this year the "modular" students' pass rate was higher in all subjects where large numbers took the new courses.

David Trisman, general secretary of the Association of University Teachers, said that, particularly in mathematics, there was "strong anecdotal evidence of an increasing mismatch between what A-level students achieve and what is needed for university courses". Roger Young, director general of the Institute of Management, said: "Setting a UK record is one thing, but our young people are now competing in a race against a world-class field."

Ruth Lea, policy director of the Institute of Directors, was concerned about the "lack of rigour" in modular exams, and the proliferation of "soft" subjects at A level.

However, head teachers described the criticism as poppycock. David Hart of the National Association of Head Teachers said: "The achievements of students and their teachers should not be undermined by those who seem to delight in denigrating their success."

And Steve Sinnott, deputy general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said: "Students and teachers would appreciate at least one year when their efforts were not undermined by a small, politically motivated group denigrating their achievements. It is time this nasty little group allowed our young people to enjoy their success."

A-level results, pages 8 and 9



A British UN peacekeeper calls for help after one of his comrades is wounded during the clashes yesterday

## British soldiers shot in Cyprus

By MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA, AND MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

TWO British soldiers serving with the United Nations force in Cyprus were wounded yesterday during renewed clashes between troops from the Turkish-occupied north of the island and Greek Cypriot demonstrators.

The two soldiers from 39 Regiment Royal Artillery suffered gunshot wounds while trying to hold back crowds of protesters at Dherinia, in the eastern part of the UN buffer zone.

The unarmed soldiers, who are part of a 370-man British contingent in the UN force, were caught in a hail of bullets as Turkish troops opened fire on the protesters. One Greek Cypriot man was killed and several others were wounded.

It was the second death along the island's "Green Line" in four days and one of the worst scenes of violence since Turkey invaded the island's northern territory in 1974.

One of the British peacekeepers was shot in the lower back while the other was hit in

the arm. The Ministry of Defence in London said their injuries were "not life-threatening". The Foreign Office condemned the violence which, it said, reinforced the urgent need for a political settlement in Cyprus.

The shooting began when



A protester shines up the Turkish flagpole

Greek Cypriot protesters forced their way into the buffer zone soon after the funeral of Tassos Isaac, a young Greek Cypriot man, who was battered to death by a mob from the Turkish-held sector in a demonstration on Sunday.

More than 200 people among the thousands of mourners who attended the funeral broke past a Greek Cypriot police cordon to breach the buffer zone.

One man climbed a flagpole and tried to remove a Turkish Cypriot flag. Turkish troops opened fire, fatally wounding the man, Solomos Solomou, in the neck.

A UN spokesman said: "There was one hell of a lot of bullets flying from behind the Turkish ceasefire line, with our men in the line of fire. We consider this a disproportionate action to the Greek Cypriot provocation."

The spokesman said representations would be made to the Turkish Army at the highest level.

The other Greek Cypriots who were wounded, at least two of them seriously, included a 59-year-old woman who had a kidney removed during surgery. UN officers said some Greek Cypriots had thrown stones at Turkish positions but none of the protesters was armed.

The British peacekeepers, who normally man the most sensitive part of the buffer zone in and around Nicosia, had been redeployed earlier in the week to support Austrian and Hungarian soldiers and Irish police, who man the dividing line in the east of the island.

Guns by post, page 3

## Murder by mail order brings new calls for guns ban

PRESSURE for a ban on the private ownership of handguns intensified yesterday after a man who bought a semi-automatic pistol through the post was jailed for murder.

Richard Humphrey, who killed a woman returning home from church and shot three other people, bought the pistol and ammunition legally from a dealer through the classified columns of a gun magazine, after duping another reader into sending him his firearms certificate.

The Recorder of London, Sir Lawrence Verney, said it was deplorable that Humphrey had been able to obtain his weapons in that way and suggested that the law should be changed, saying: "Those who have to make decisions will perhaps make note that it was a .22 which caused the damage in this case."

The Police Federation also renewed its call for a ban, saying the case exposed a loophole in the law. "A wholesale prohibition of handguns is the solution," the chairman, Fred Broughton, said.

The case comes hard on the heels of the Commons Home Affairs Committee's recommendation that an outright ban on handguns was not necessary, in spite of pleas from the families of the Dunblane victims and huge public petitions.

The Government has said that it will await the outcome of Lord Cullen's inquiry into the Dunblane massacre before making a decision, but Alan Beith of the Liberal Democrats said yesterday: "Supplying guns by mail order is one of the terrifying weaknesses of the current gun control system. The whole system needs a complete overhaul."

John Prescott, the Labour deputy leader, also repeated his call for handguns to be banned from the home.

### Vicar case arrest

Terry Storey, wanted in connection with the killing of Liverpool vicar Christopher Ghey, was arrested at a flat early yesterday.

Ministry's risks, page 5  
Lord Rancie, page 16

### Drop in jobless

The Government has hailed figures showing that unemployment has fallen to its lowest level for five years. July's fall of 24,100 brought the total to 2,126,300. Page 23

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## Big Mac windfall for Tories

By ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Portillo's difficulties over the proposed sale of his local Tory headquarters to McDonald's deepened last night when it was disclosed that Conservative Central Office will benefit by up to £100,000 from the proceeds.

The Defence Secretary has connections with the fast-food chain, one of Britain's biggest private employers. He is a close friend of Geoffrey Tucker, 71, McDonald's political consultant.

An approach was made to McDonald's, from within Mr Portillo's Enfield Southgate

Conservative Association, to buy the Edwardian building. McDonald's offered £325,000, £100,000 more than rival bids.

Officials close to Conservative Central Office made clear last night that the party high command would benefit. "A donation in the form of a loan of up to £100,000 will be made to Central Office from the proceeds," said one.

If the bid goes through, at least £100,000 will be left when the local party buys a new headquarters. "It will be made available to Central Office in the form of a loan

which we can be repaid to the local party at any moment."

The revelation will heighten fears among Mr Portillo's constituents that the McDonald's offer is effectively a political donation. Many loyal Tory activists have vowed not to vote for Mr Portillo again unless he decides to oppose the bid. Mr Portillo has declined because it could breach Cabinet collective responsibility as the bid is likely to go to an appeal ruling by the Environment Secretary.

Constituency row, page 2

## Dole is poised to play the Colin Powell card

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

BOB DOLE was last night preparing to receive the Republican Party nomination he first sought 16 years ago. As he did so, speculation grew that he might ask Colin Powell to be his Secretary of State.

Dole aides at the party convention here were actively exploring ways to improve their candidate's chances of defeating President Clinton in November by drawing the retired general deeper into the campaign. One possibility is that Mr Dole will offer Gener-

al Powell the State Department job in his administration. If the general accepts, Mr Dole might take the unprecedented step of announcing it before election day.

A nightly poll yesterday put Mr Dole 12 points behind Mr Clinton. That gap has barely changed during the first two days of the convention but Mr Dole hopes for another big boost tonight when he formally accepts the nomination.

Powell factor, page 12

## Rival slipped Valium to Chizzy the chihuahua

By EMMA WILKINS

A WOMAN who gave a prize chihuahua a Valium tablet shortly before it was due to compete in a top dog show was banned from the Kennel Club for five years yesterday.

The pill left Chizzy, a 14-month-old long-haired bitch, incapable of standing or even wagging her tail, her owner Tracey Dyke told the club's disciplinary committee.

It had been given to Chizzy by Carol Brampton, a dog owner from Faversham, Kent, at the Northern Counties Championship show last year.

Mrs Brampton, who denied giving the dog Valium and said the tablet was a homeopathic remedy, had behaved "discreditably and prejudicially" to the interests of the canine world, the Kennel Club's disciplinary committee ruled after a hearing in London.

She was suspended for five years from all Kennel Club shows and events and ordered to pay £200 costs.

The hearing had heard allegations of jealousy and intrigue that would have put a medieval court to shame. Mrs Brampton claimed the allegations were made out of jealousy over her 20 years of success in showing chihuahuas.

Mrs Dyke, of Bromsgrove, Hereford and Worcester, cried when she told

how Mrs Brampton smiled as she administered the 0.5 milligram tablet.

Chizzy, whose full name is Deltrame Secret Showburst, became lethargic and fell into a stupor at the show in Lytham St Anne's, Lancashire, where Mrs Brampton's chihuahua was also competing.

After the hearing, Mrs Dyke said: "This will rock the dog world. This sort of thing should not happen and drugs should not be used on dogs."

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THE LONDON INSTITUTE

# Trust chairman forced out by doctors' resignation

By DOMINIC KENNEDY  
SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE chairman of a hospital trust was forced out of his job yesterday after 16 of his leading consultants resigned.

Peter Allen, 61, a former senior manager with British Steel, agreed to relinquish his post to end one of the most dramatic trials of strength between doctors and managers since the National Health Service internal market was created. The resignation will be seen throughout the health service as a victory for the white coats over the grey suits. However, it was unclear whether

his head would be enough to satisfy 60 consultants at a leading hospital who had already passed votes of no confidence in Mr Allen and Tony Beddow, his chief executive.

Gwynn Jones, the Minister for Health in Wales, said the chairman had taken the right decision to leave his £19,285-a-year post, which involved 3½ days work per week. The chairman stood down within hours of some of the leading clinicians in Wales penning individual letters of resignation to the trust.

The dispute began when the Morriston Hospital NHS Trust in Swansea tried to make three doctors and 13 medical staff redundant

without warning last week. The trust was facing a cash crisis after the local health authority transferred a £1.6 million contract for elderly people's care to another hospital in the area. Its budget was said to be £3 million in the red.

The stand-off threatened to affect patients unless a solution could be found quickly. The consultants had resigned from their duties as clinical directors in specialties ranging from accident and emergency to urology. Their mass resignation was seen as unprecedented in the health service.

They were prepared to continue to care for patients, but refused to have any more input into the manage-

ment of their hospital, the administration of their departments and the preparation of contracts. That would have made the internal market unworkable.

The vote of no-confidence in the two men came after a three-hour meeting of 60 consultants. There were no dissenting voices.

The trust's board responded by issuing a unanimous declaration of confidence in both of them. Mr Beddow is regarded, even by his opponents, as a devoted and committed servant of the NHS with a long history as a backroom man involved in planning. But his direct manner can be seen as abrasive and

confrontational. Mr Jones said: "I have been saddened at this whole episode. I recognise that the board has faced difficult decisions but the root of the problem appears to have been a failure of communications between themselves and key staff at the hospital."

"The major issue is that all staff need to feel that they have an opportunity to influence decisions that affect their careers and health care for patients."

The decision is a morale boost for the British Medical Association, which backed the consultants. Bob Broughton, its Welsh secretary, said: "The situation can only be

mended by a change of management. This is the gravest crisis facing the NHS in Wales in modern history."

Mr Beddow said yesterday: "I want to bridge the gap with the consultants. The challenge now is to find ways of cutting the £3 million in other ways."

The hospital consultants were last night still hoping to force the chief executive to resign. Dr Broughton said that the vote of no confidence in Mr Beddow still stands.

The proposed redundancies of 16 staff were withdrawn at the board meeting earlier this week.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Employers say postal strike is collapsing

About 18,000 postal workers ignored their union and reported for work during the fifth national postal strike yesterday, according to Royal Mail. It said the return to work was growing and called again on the Communications Workers Union to ballot members on a pay and conditions deal agreed at Aca.

A CWU spokesman maintained that the strike was strong in most areas of the country. The next stoppage is scheduled for next Thursday.

### Pay protest

The pensioner who received an angry rebuke from her Tory MP for writing to complain about MPs' pay rises yesterday attacked Labour for looking the other way. Dame Angela Rumbold had told Hilary Pentecost, 76, that she was fed up with protests about her 26 per cent pay rise.

### Concrete attack

A concrete block was thrown through the window of an SDLP councillor's house in Belfast after he had condemned IRA punishment beatings on television the night before. Hugh Lewisley, who was beaten in a suspected IRA attack last year, narrowly escaped injury.

### Beef sold as lamb

The Government was urged to carry out a survey of meat products after the disclosure that at least two supermarkets could be facing prosecution for selling beef as lamb. Trading standards officers suspect retailers have been including beef in lamb mince since the BSE scare.

### Doctor may quit

Mandy Allwood, who is pregnant with eight fetuses, was told yesterday she would have to choose between her doctor and a newspaper deal. Professor Kypros Nicolaides said he was no longer prepared to manage her pregnancy "under the spotlight of international publicity".

### Hunt continues

Five French detectives are due to arrive in Britain today to pursue their investigation into the case of Caroline Dickinson, 13, from Launceston in Cornwall, who was raped and murdered in a Brittany youth hostel on July 18 while on a school trip with Launceston College.

### Islands for sale

A chain of private islands off the northwest coast of Scotland has been put on the market. The Ascrib Islands, about two miles off the north of the Isle of Skye, are expected to fetch more than £200,000. There are six main islands in the chain, totalling around 146 acres.

### Woman named



The woman found battered to death in Manchester after a night out with friends was named yesterday as Rachel Thacker, 22, Miss Thacker, above, from Chasetown, Staffordshire, was due to start her first job caring for the elderly at a hospital in West Bromwich today.

## 'The association is not listening to the members'

# Voters desert Portillo over 'Burgergate' claims

By ANDREW PIERCE, JOANNA BAILE AND JAMES LANDALE

MICHAEL PORTILLO, who is facing a revolt by previously Tory-voting constituents over plans to turn the local Conservative association headquarters into a McDonald's restaurant, is a close friend of the company's political consultant.

Geoffrey Tucker, 71, who was director of communications at Conservative Central Office during the Heath government, has been employed as a lobbyist for years to promote the McDonald's cause in Whitehall.

Many lifelong Tories in Mr Portillo's Enfield Southgate constituency predicted yesterday that the MP, who has a 15,563 majority, could lose his seat over his refusal to oppose the company's application for planning permission for the drive-through restaurant.

Residents' suspicions that the McDonald's bid, £100,000 higher than the rival offers, was effectively a political donation will be fuelled by the revelation that local party chiefs plan to lend some of the proceeds of the sale to Central Office.

Mr Portillo, the Defence Secretary, was heckled at a packed public meeting on Tuesday night when he made clear that as a Cabinet minister he could not take sides because the planning decision could go to appeal and be

adjudicated by the Environment Secretary. "We are then bound by collective responsibility," he told *The Times*.

Mr Portillo was pictured last year on the other side of the counter at an existing McDonald's in Southgate, complete with uniform.

McDonald's has intimated to the local Conservative association that it expects the application to be rejected by the local authority but to win on appeal. Efforts to win an appeal have begun.

The company's formidable lobbying operation is already under way. The company has impeccable contacts. Sir Bernard Ingham, Baroness Thatcher's former press secretary, is a non-executive director of McDonald's. Mike Love, the company's director of communications, was the former Prime Minister's agent when she was MP for Finchley. Mr Love and Lady Thatcher are still close.

Mr Tucker, the architect of the Tories' 1970 general election victory, has done most to smooth the path to the top of the political ladder for McDonald's. Mr Portillo and his wife Carolyn have stayed at Mr Tucker's villa in Lucca, Italy. Mr Portillo, William Waldegrave, and Douglas Hurd, were guests at his 70th birthday party at Brooks's.

A McDonald's spokeswoman

said: "Mr Tucker helps to arrange political dinners with ministers and MPs from all parties. We have no political affiliations. Mr Tucker also gives us political advice."

In February, the company for the first time hired a firm of political consultants, The Communication Group, which has strong links to the Labour Party. A rival lobbyist said: "One suspects they decided to hire [the firm] now to prepare for life under a Labour government. It is a very politically astute company."

Few residents in the north London suburb doubted that McDonald's would triumph again. They blamed Mr Portillo. Eileen Fowler, 76, a Tory party member who lives opposite the double-fronted Victorian Conservative Association headquarters, said: "I will never vote for Portillo again if he allows this to go ahead."

Mrs Fowler added: "We've been let down very badly. The association is selling to the highest bidder without listening to the ordinary members like me, and Portillo says it is nothing to do with him. It's outrageous."

Her sister, Gwen Gilbertson, 78, who lives nearby, added: "My husband has written to Portillo, along with hundreds of others, but he refuses to take sides. How can he expect us to vote for him

when he acts like this?"

Reg Bird, 87, an association member, said: "Most at that meeting were Conservative voters like me, yet they were booing and heckling him. Portillo quite honestly is a twit. He just tried to hide behind everything."

In the entrance hall of the Conservative association is a letter to members from Lionel Zetter, the chairman, apologising for the fact that the first many of them heard about the £325,000 sale was through local newspapers, after McDonald's issued an "unauthorised" press release.

A spokeswoman for the association said yesterday: "This is a big old house which is being under-used and is expensive to maintain. People who give money to the party want it to go on campaigning, not on repair bills."

McDonald's will fight all the way. It took 13 years to overcome the objections of Hampstead residents to its plans but the company won.

In Leicester last year, having suffered the indignity of losing a planning appeal, McDonald's took the case to the High Court and won.

Few local authorities can resist the approach, known as a "carrot and stick" strategy. Local authorities are threatened with a long and costly appeal if planning permission



Michael Portillo at a McDonald's in his Enfield Southgate constituency in 1994

is refused. Most cash-strapped town halls, informed by QCs that McDonald's always wins, duck the fight early on.

The lobbying is formidable. The company offers hundreds of jobs for unskilled workers. Its commitment to local communities is reinforced through charitable activities. Scope

Communications Management, whose advisers in the past have included the Tory MP Simon Burns, advises on the charity programme.

Free sports equipment is donated to youth groups, coffee mornings are arranged for pensioners, and business forums set up for local com-

panies. Opponents have labelled the tactics "bribes to the community".

Occasionally, the operation comes unstuck. Last year, plans for a 190-seat "drive-through" restaurant in Finchley were rejected by Barnet council. For once it did not appeal.

## ASA inquiry into 'satanic' Tory image of Blair

By ANDREW PIERCE

AN INVESTIGATION has been launched by the Advertising Standards Authority into a Tory advertisement that depicted Tony Blair with a wide grin and red eyes.

The advertisement was described as a "satanic" image by the Bishop of Oxford. Political advertisements are not governed by the same rules as commercial products. The Conservative Party, however, may have breached the industry code which says that advertisers who have not obtained prior permission from high-profile figures have a duty to ensure that they are not portrayed in an "offensive or adverse" way.

An ASA spokesman said: "We have a duty to investigate. We have had a number of complaints. If the complaint is upheld the ASA can compel the Tories to withdraw the advertisement."

Peter Mandelson, head of Labour's election planning unit, said: "I hope that everyone who is offended by this grotesque image will register their objection with the ASA."

## Security guards may be vetted under new rules

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of private guards face vetting under Home Office proposals to clean up the security industry. Under plans launched yesterday, an independent agency would check whether a guard had a criminal record and would keep a register of applicants. If they had convictions the agency would refuse them clearance to work.

New legislation would make it an offence to employ a guard who had not been given clearance and it would be an offence for anyone to work as a guard without first being scrutinised by the agency.

The agency and its operations would be self-financing and could cost at least £1 million a year. Employees or companies would pay for the clearance checks. Home Office officials believe at least 49,000 guards would be covered by the proposals now being considered by the security industry's leaders and police.

The proposals follow a report last year from the Commons select committee on Home Affairs which called for strict regulation of the indus-

try including the licensing of guards. The MPs heard evidence from police that up to 2,600 crimes are committed each year by guards. In one company, 11 out of 26 employees had previous convictions ranging from rape to assault.

Announcing the proposals yesterday, David Maclean, a Home Office minister, said most areas of the security industry were covered by effective self-regulation. But he said the public was worried about contract security guards.

The Association of Chief Police Officers and the Police Superintendents' Association welcomed the proposals.

Tony Makosinski, of the British Security Industries Association, said: "We are happy, this takes us in the right direction. It doesn't go far enough but it's a good start."

Bruce George, Labour MP for Walsall South, a campaigner for tighter controls said: "This is a feeble, limited and panicky reaction to the growing demand for regulation of the industry."

## RAF flies blindly into the future

By MICHAEL EVANS

RAF bomber pilots of the future may have to learn to fly "blind", sitting in a closed cockpit and relying on sensors to judge where they are going.

The scrapping of the traditional perspex cockpit is one of a number of concepts being studied by RAF experts who have been asked to produce ideas for a bomber to replace the Tornado GR4 by 2015. The "hard cover" option has been included because of the threat of laser weapons that could blind pilots.

More than 140 Tornado GR4s are currently being updated with new weapon systems, pilot displays and avionics, all of which should be in service by 2002. However, by 2015 the Tornado



A BAe impression of the Future Offensive Aircraft

airframe will have flown more than double the hours originally anticipated — 9,000 instead of 4,000 — and the RAF said yesterday work needed to start now on a replacement.

With technologies advanc-

ing at a rapid rate, the RAF experts have a list of replacement options that include flying unmanned aircraft and using VC10-size planes to launch long-range missiles. However, RAF pilots are con-

vinced the day of the unmanned combat aircraft has not yet arrived and that the Future Offensive Aircraft, as it is known, will be flown by air crews.

Even so, one of the concepts to be examined is for unmanned air vehicles (UAVs), or remotely piloted aircraft, to be used as bomb carriers. Existing UAVs, like the Israeli battlefield drones, are used for reconnaissance.

RAF sources said yesterday they did not believe the technology for arming UAVs with a payload of bombs would be ready in time to replace the Tornado GR4. Other unmanned aircraft could be "flown" remotely from a distance by a pilot sitting in an Awacs command and control plane.

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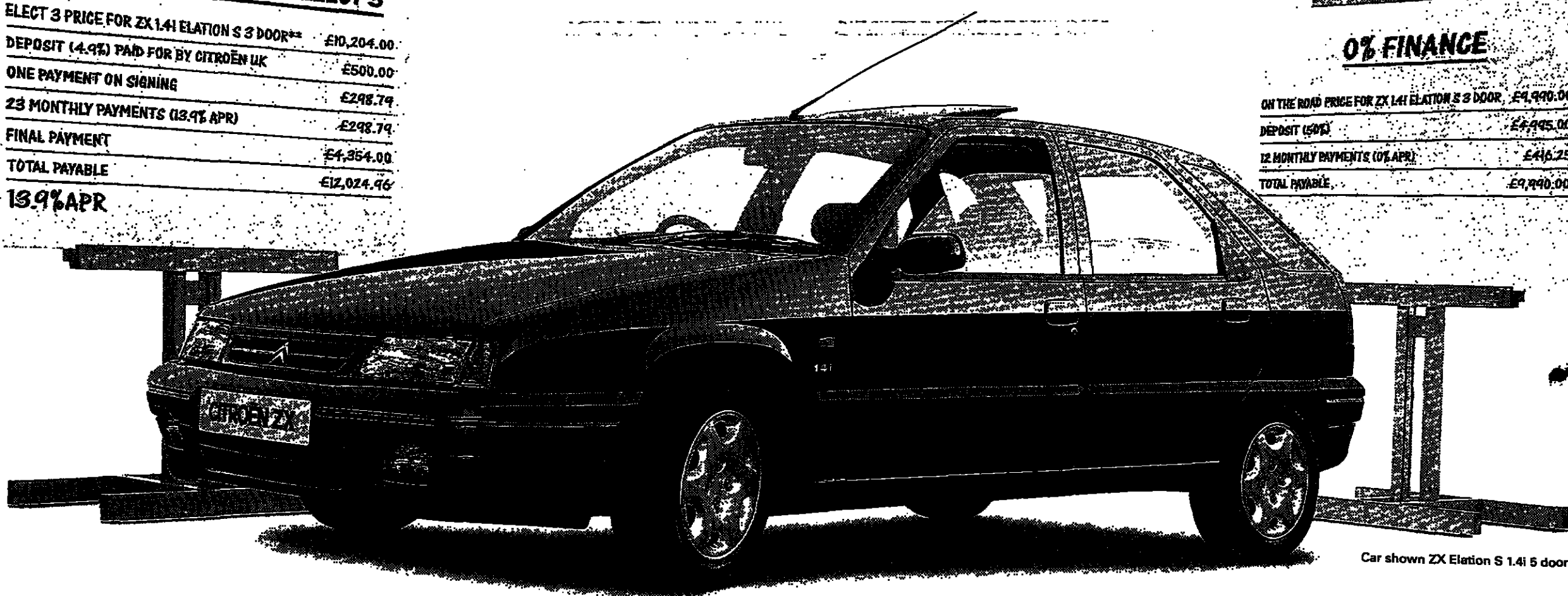
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Parents pay tribute to 'extraordinary' son as clergy urge greater protection in inner cities

# Murdered vicar accepted risks of urban ministry

By KATE ALDERSON

THE parents of the Rev Christopher Gray, the gifted Church of England vicar who was stabbed to death outside his vicarage in Liverpool, spoke movingly yesterday of how he had given himself to the Church.

Dr Philip Gray, 63, and his wife, Margaret, 64, from Gosport, Hampshire, had been on holiday in Northumberland when they heard of their son's death. They identified his body yesterday.

Dr Gray said he knew that his son had been involved in work which carried risk. "It is a measure of his character that he was to shield us from the full knowledge of the risks he was taking," he said during a news conference with his wife. "There was nothing we could do to lessen them in any way. He had chosen to accept those risks and we therefore had to accept his risks."

His wife spoke only once, saying: "He was an extraordinary son and I adored him." Mr Gray, 32, who was described by the Bishop of Liverpool, the Right Rev David Sheppard, as one of the most able priests of his generation,



Christopher Gray: held hostage in previous job

ation, was stabbed to death outside his vicarage next to St Margaret's Church, Anfield. He had been seen talking to a man outside the vicarage shortly before the attack.

It was disclosed yesterday that Mr Gray, who became the vicar of St Margaret's 18 months ago, had been burgled and held hostage two years ago by a man in another Liverpool parish. The attack, when Mr Gray was a curate, is understood to have come as he was counselling a young

man. The assailant was jailed for 18 months.

Dr Gray, who spoke calmly and compassionately about his son, said that he would be dreadfully missed. He said that he was different things to different people: to his parishioners he was a well-loved priest and to the academic community he was a scholar of high repute.

He did not blame any organisation or place for his son's death. "I think he probably felt that the city [of Liverpool] had great deprivation and there were many needs in the city, some of which he felt he could cater to."

"He was very happy in Liverpool, he liked the people, the diocese. The jobs he did were jobs that were not immediately attractive. There were risks to his property, to his life. He cheerfully accepted these."

Police were questioning a 31-year-old man yesterday in connection with the murder. Terence Storey, from Liverpool, was arrested in Newton-le-Willows, Merseyside, after a tip-off. A man and a woman were also arrested.

Robert Runcie, page 16  
Leading article, page 17



Philip and Margaret Gray yesterday. "He was an extraordinary son and I adored him," his mother said

## Call for personal alarms after second attack

CLERGY demanded last night that women priests be given personal alarms to protect them against violent attack and urged a review of security for all priests.

The call followed news of a second attack on a vicar. The Rev Nduna Mponzi, 50, was in hospital with serious head injuries last night after being attacked with an axe by a man who had sought his help over

marital difficulties. Mr Mponzi, from South Africa, is curate of St Mary and All Saints in Palfrey, Walsall.

The Rev Stephen Trotter, of the clergy section of the MSF union, wrote to Lambeth Palace yesterday demanding a working party to review personal security. He said that when he was a curate in Hull he had to cover his clerical collar with a scarf or

coat to avoid attack. "In the case of female clergy, personal attack alarms would be a very good idea."

The Right Rev Christopher Hill, Bishop of Stafford, said that clergy might have to abandon inner cities if they did not receive urgent advice on security. He was backed by the Rt Rev Roger Sainsbury, Bishop of Barking, who chairs an advisory group

on urban priority areas for the Church. Bishop Sainsbury said there had been several incidents in the past five years of attacks on priests and their families.

"We must have priests who can get out and mix with people, but we need to have some advice and be prepared. I hope that we will still have this total commitment to staying in the city."

### NEWS IN BRIEF

## Policeman sacked for assault

A policeman based at Dewsbury, West Yorkshire, has been forced to resign after a disciplinary hearing upheld complaints that he had assaulted an Asian man. He was charged with abuse of authority at a two-day police hearing. The Police Complaints Authority said it had agreed with the recommendation that the officer should be required to resign.

## BSE outbreak

A new case of BSE has been discovered in Co Cork. The herd of 75 dairy cows will be slaughtered, as will any others found to have been in contact with the affected cow. It is the twenty-second case identified this year in Ireland.

## Canal explosion

Two men, aged 76 and 66, were badly burnt when a boat exploded on the Grand Union Canal at Blisworth, Northamptonshire. One suffered 30 per cent burns and the other 10 per cent burns. The boat was destroyed.

## Vote bunkered

The unopposed election in June of Carmel Murphy, a teacher, as first woman leader of Co Cork's Kinsale Urban District Council, has been declared invalid because it took place at a licensed golf club. She must run for office again.

## Callers see red

Two new red BT phone boxes, based on the traditional models that were phased out after 1985, went into use near Westminster Cathedral for a short trial. Five thousand are to be installed across the country at a cost of £5 million.

## Caroline Parr

A report (Diary, August 6) stated that James Hewitt's PR woman was Caroline Parr and that she was present throughout his mother's interview with *Hello!* magazine. Although Mrs Parr helped to organise the meeting, she does not represent Mr Hewitt and was not present at the interview. We apologise for the misunderstanding and any inconvenience caused to Mrs Parr.

# Icy depths of Jupiter's moon could hold evidence of life in space

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

NEW pictures of one of Jupiter's moons, Europa, have provided tantalising hints that icy floors on its surface may be sitting on slush or even water. If so, Europa could harbour some form of life. Liquid water is the most important ingredient for life and Europa could have much more of it than Mars.

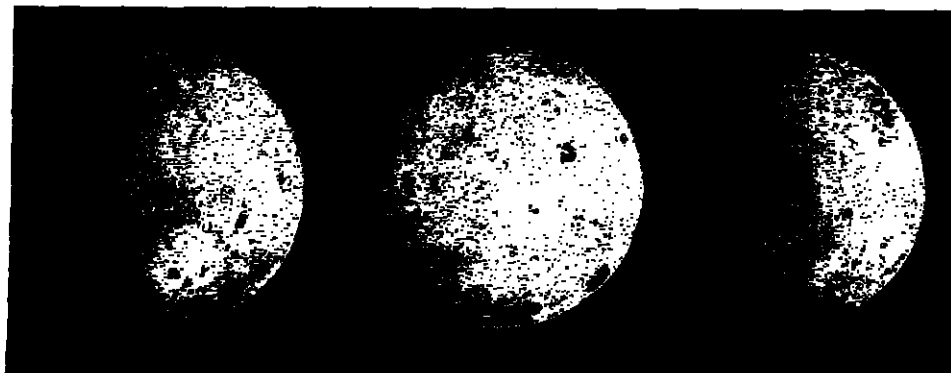
The new images were taken by the spacecraft Galileo from a distance of 96,000 miles. Scientists at a press conference organised by Nasa said they showed a surface dotted by a series of dark spots that could be the scars of geysers.

Galileo also produced the

best pictures yet of Io, another of Jupiter's moons, providing evidence of volcanic activity. The pictures show that Io has large red expanses, closely linked to recent volcanic deposits, around a volcano named Pele. Other images show a huge plume of blue-coloured sulphur dioxide rising from a volcano named Ra Patera.

"It's really exciting," Professor Ronald Greeley of Arizona State University said of the Europa discovery. He described the surface as resembling "ice-floes on polar seas on Earth".

The possibility that the icy



Photographs of Jupiter's moon, Io, showed evidence of volcanic activity

slabs are moving around on a lubricating layer of relatively warm, mushy ice may mean that strong tidal forces are at

work, cracking the crust. And, Professor Greeley said, the more geologically active Europa turns out to be, the more

likely it is to have niches that could harbour life.

Europa is the fourth largest moon of Jupiter and the

smallest to be seen by Galileo when he first pointed his telescope at the heavens in 1610. Its diameter is almost 1,900 miles, making it marginally smaller than our Moon.

Its surface temperature, at -145C, is low, but the ice crust that covers the surface may be only a few miles thick. Beneath it, according to Dr Ralph Lorenz of the Lunar and Planetary Laboratory at the University of Arizona, there may be huge oceans of water up to 30 miles deep. Europa is five times further from the Sun than the Earth, so if there is liquid water it could be kept that way only by radioactive heat from the centre, or by tidal forces — the squeezing

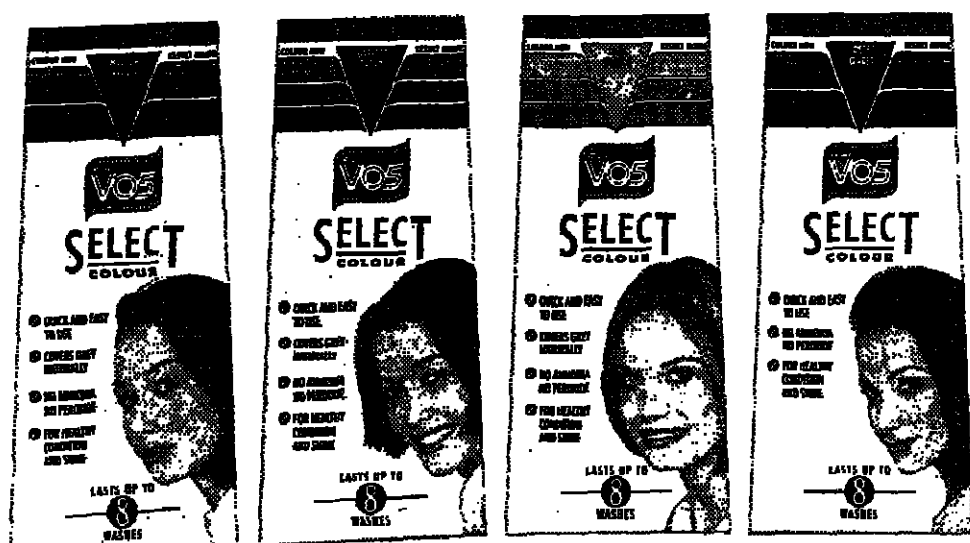
and stretching it gets from being close to Jupiter.

Professor Greeley said that the new pictures, taken on June 27, allowed scientists to see "details not even suspected" from pictures returned in 1979 by the Voyager spacecraft; for example, the icy slabs appear thinner than scientists thought.

Galileo, launched in 1989, has been returning a steady stream of Jupiter moon close-ups, each opening scientists' eyes to new details and hints about geology. They are anxiously anticipating even better pictures from a December flyby, when Galileo will pass within 600 miles of Europa.

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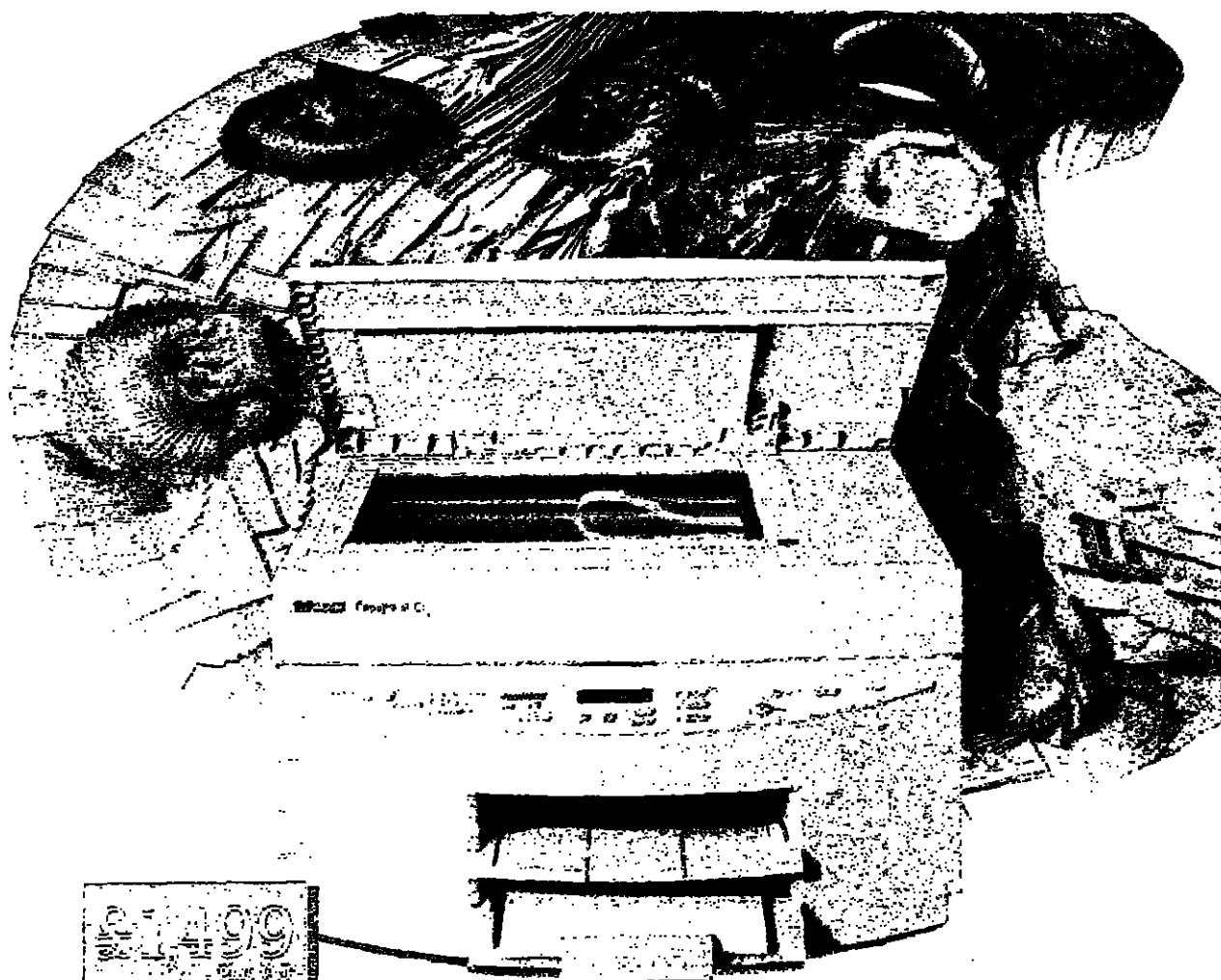
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## Offshore wind farm stirs up concerns for wildlife

BY PETER FOSTER

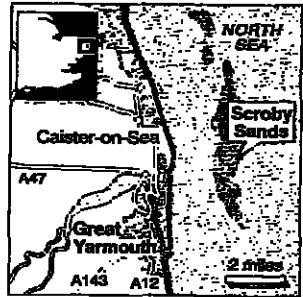
A PLAN to build the world's largest offshore wind farm two miles from the Norfolk coast provoked serious concern among naturalists yesterday, although environmentalists gave the scheme a cautious welcome.

The £35 million development proposed by PowerGen, the electricity-generating company, would consist of 25 giant wind turbines sunk into a sandbank off Great Yarmouth. Scroby Sands is used by up to 200 grey and common seals as a basking area and is a feeding ground for birds such as the little tern.

Professor John Harwood,

head of the Sea Mammal Research Unit based at St Andrews University, said the bank was the only basking area of its kind for 50 or 60 miles. "There must be a major study by engineers and oceanographers to assess the impact of this development and its long-term effect on the site of the sandbank." It was possible the seals would return after the site was completed. "There are seals that breed in The Wash on the boundaries of a bombing range."

Paul Lewis of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said: "We would be very concerned if the project im-



acted on the little tern population who use the bank for feeding. We would also be anxious to ensure the turbines don't affect Britain's largest breeding colony of little terns on North Denes beach, just off Great Yarmouth, which is

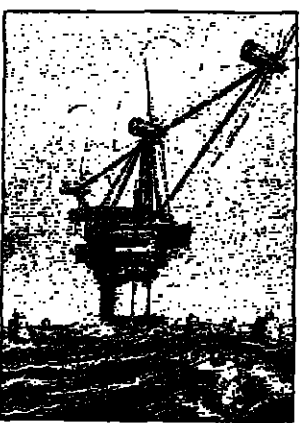
designated a special protection area under European law."

PowerGen is seeking government approval for the scheme, which could generate enough electricity to meet the daily needs of a town of 56,000 people. The Crown Estates, which owns Scroby Sands, said yesterday it was prepared to negotiate an agreement if approval was forthcoming.

A spokesman for PowerGen said the 190ft-high turbines would be sunk into the northern end of Scroby Sands, well away from the seals' basking area. "We have done a lot of environmental development work and have deliberately proposed a site which is always under water and not used by the seals."

The Council for the Protection of Rural England, which has campaigned against wind farms on the Yorkshire moors and the Brecon Beacons, said: "In principle we are not against a scheme which takes into account our previous objections to wind farms. It would not spoil the landscape and would be noiseless."

Anna Stanfield, energy campaigner for Friends of the Earth, said that if an environmental impact study gave the area a clean bill of health, her organisation would support the scheme. "As well as being beneficial for the environment, wind power is an export and employment opportunity and we are delighted that a company is at last acting to develop it."



An impression of Brent Spar as an energy plant

## Power plan for Brent Spar

BY NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

THE Brent Spar oil platform could finish its life festooned with windmills and wave power machines. The suggestion, by a Dutch consortium, is among 30 ideas being studied by Shell for disposing of its ill-fated platform after plans to dump it in the Atlantic raised the hackles of environmentalists.

Hollandia and Volker Stevin Offshore, two engineering contractors, are behind the eco-friendly power station idea. They say that the upper part of Brent Spar

should be refurbished and fitted with three windmills, each capable of generating three megawatts of electricity. Later, wave power generators, each capable of generating 0.7 megawatts, would be attached to the platform. When complete, it could generate 19 megawatts of electricity which would be sent through a power line to the shore from a site off the west coast of Scotland.

The power station is the most unusual of the 30 proposals Shell is studying, more than half of which are for on-shore dismantling or scrapping.



Janet Proud shows off 17-week-old daughter Sophie, nicknamed "Stroppy Proud" after surviving a premature birth weighing only nine ounces, heart and eye operations and pneumonia. Her twin sister died at birth. Mrs Proud, a teacher, of Sunderland, Tyne and Wear, said: "She's a miracle"

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## Why high-tech Hamlet failed to do his turn

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A DAY after faulty technology put a stop to the opening night of a one-man reworking of *Hamlet*, the Canadian actor-director Robert Lepage acknowledged that the reliance on high-tech, multi-media equipment was "a bit too risky".

*Elsinore*, which was to have had a five-night run at the King's Theatre, was let down by one of the four motors turning the revolve, which would have picked up the large and elaborate sets. Everything had depended on it. "A remarkable synthesis of dazzling theatre technology and cinematic convention" was promised.

All had been working smoothly during the rehearsals. Over the past six months of an international tour, there had been the occasional "crash-down", Lepage explained, but nothing that had ever caused a cancellation.

At the eleventh hour, it was impossible to find an alternative production to fill the King's Theatre. Nearly 3,000 tickets had been sold for the run. It was to have been the British premiere of a play which *The Times*, at its Brussels performance, described as "a one-man show of beguiling originality".

Initially, an electrical fault was suspected. Like so many let down by electrical faults, those involved in *Elsinore* discovered that it was all down to a spare part that was unavailable in this country. "There was no example of it here," Lepage said.

Brian McMaster, director of the festival, was unable to comment on reports that the cancellation would cost £100,000. "We have an insurance policy," he said.

He emphasised that discussions were under way for Lepage to return to next year's festival. "He is one of the

great people working in theatre today. You have to take an incomparable number of risks. Some of those risks don't come off."

The show will be seen, if not in Edinburgh, on a tour that will include Nottingham, Newcastle upon Tyne, Glasgow, Cambridge and at the National Theatre in London.

One Aberdeen company at the festival fringe has sold only 55 of 2,200 tickets for an 11-day run of its biblical rock musical. The cost of 60 of Key is in danger of outnumbering the audience every night: their makeshift theatre seats 200. Yesterday the Key booking-sheet showed that not one of the 65 tickets had been sold for two of the performances. On most nights only two or three people are expected.

Derek Keith, an acoustics engineer and musician who has written and produced *Key*, said: "We won't let it get to us. We know it's a top-notch show. That's the frustrating part. You come to the fringe and expect an audience."

Festival news, page 33



Lepage: admitted that show was too risky

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As the nation's students brace for delight or despair, a veteran of post-results counselling offers advice

**BY DAVID CHARTER**  
**EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT**

"I also know some pupils



Mr Moore worries that successful students are in danger of being overlooked today.



**Results day for the class of '83 began and ended for Carol Midgley, pictured left at the age of 19, in the bathroom of her parents' home**

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With modular courses and competition between the big four examiners, picking subjects is not easy

## Interest in science continues to decline

BY JOHN O'LEARY  
EDUCATION EDITOR  
AND DAVID CHARTER

TEENAGERS are continuing to shun the sciences, in spite of the Government's attempt to boost the subjects, today's A-level results show. Physics, chemistry and combined sciences all had fewer entries in a year when the overall number of A-level candidates rose.

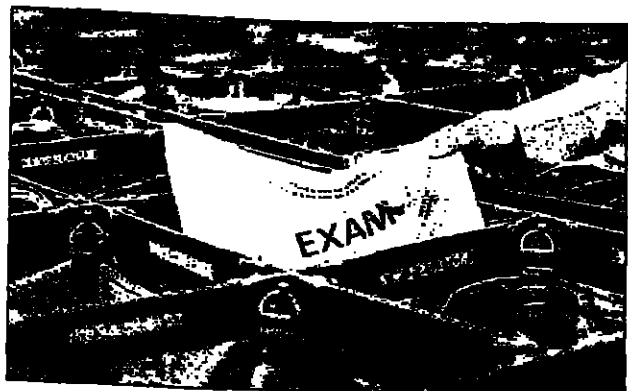
Ministers have been trying to encourage more sixth-formers to take science subjects, to cope with the demands of the 21st-century labour market. But the decline in entries accelerated this summer and is not expected to recover next year.

Bryan Davies, Labour's further and higher education spokesman, said that the drop showed there was no room for complacency in the overall "results". The number of students specialising in mathematics and the sciences had fallen from 30 per cent in 1984 to less than 17 per cent this year.

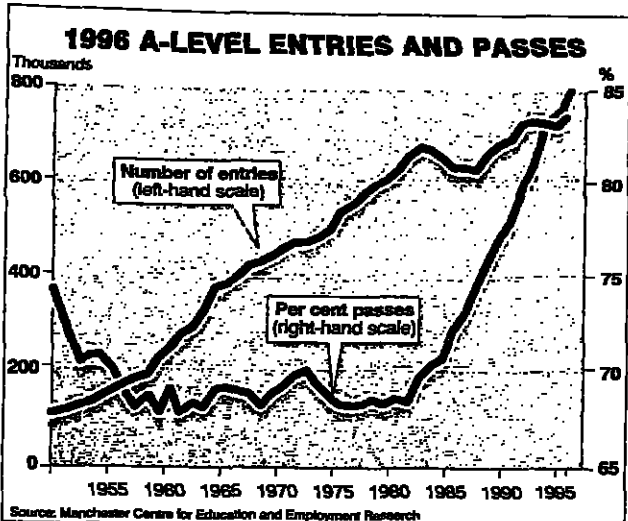
The increase of 1.2 per cent in the total number of A-level entries was lower than the rise in the 18-year-old population. More students are opting for vocational qualifications, whose results are not published until the end of the month.

A rise of 1.8 percentage points in the proportion of passes at E grade and above shows a return to the grade inflation of the early years of the decade. The increase was sharper still in the A-C grades, which are generally considered the passport to popular degree courses.

The rate of increase in the top grade slowed, however, with last year's 15.6 per cent rising to 16 per cent this



Posted: the delivery of exam results may have been held up by yesterday's postal workers' strike



summer. This trend, at least, should bring some relief to university admissions tutors trying to ration places on courses with high entry requirements.

Some subjects, such as biology, computing, physics and modern languages, saw the proportion of A grades fall. But there were significant rises at the top level in religious studies, classics and art and design.

Pass rates in modular A

levels were, as predicted, much higher than on traditional courses in the same subjects. However, it proved more difficult for candidates to get an A grade in three of the four main subjects for modular entries this year.

Modular A levels are gradually being introduced for all subjects and allow the student to be examined on units of the course as they complete them. This year, the most modular papers were taken in mathematics, by 59 per cent of candidates, followed by 58 per cent in chemistry, 50 per cent in biology and 45 per cent in physics.

Around 10 per cent of English A levels completed this summer were modular and next year's figures will include many more, including the first results from modular A levels in economics, geography, politics and modern foreign languages.

Mathematics was the only subject where students on the new-style courses scored more grade As and Bs than their counterparts taking the whole examination this summer. On modular courses, 26.6 per cent of students gained an A and 21.1 per cent a B, compared with 24.2 per cent and 16.7 per cent on traditional, linear, courses.

In biology, 12.4 per cent of students gained a modular A grade compared with 15 per cent on linear courses. The A-grade rate in chemistry was 18.7 per cent for modular and 20.8 per cent for linear and in physics 16.8 per cent modular and 23.7 per cent linear.

Examination boards said the overall pass rates reflected both greater motivation on behalf of those taking modular courses, as well as their tendency not to register for final examinations if units already taken suggested that they would fail. As a result, candidates tended to cluster in the middle grades.

In mathematics, a 90.2 per cent pass rate was recorded on modular courses compared with 83.4 per cent otherwise. For biology, the modular pass rate was 38.9 per cent compared with 39.7 per cent; in chemistry 87.2 per cent compared with 89.9 per cent; and in physics 89.2 per cent compared with 82.3 per cent.

### CUMULATIVE 1996 A-LEVEL RESULTS BY GRADE (1995 percentages)

Subject	A	B	C	D	E	N	U	No sat	% of total no sat
Art & Design subjects	19.4	39.4	63.4	82.2	93.7	98.5	100.0	33,782	4.6
Biology	18.3	38.2	61.4	80.9	93.0	98.4	100.0	33,907	4.7
Business Studies	14.3	32.5	51.7	69.6	84.4	93.7	100.0	51,894	7.0
Chemistry	17.1	32.3	42.8	64.6	81.3	90.7	100.0	28,100	3.9
Classical subjects	19.8	40.7	59.1	74.1	88.1	94.1	100.0	40,455	5.5
Communication Studies	19.3	37.0	53.9	69.4	82.4	91.7	100.0	42,280	5.9
Computing	24.9	48.5	66.9	82.9	92.1	96.1	100.0	7,345	1.0
Economics	23.8	46.4	67.6	82.9	91.5	96.2	100.0	7,773	1.1
English	11.5	27.7	44.7	61.7	77.7	88.1	100.0	5,077	0.7
Expressive Arts	11.7	29.7	47.3	65.3	80.1	89.8	100.0	5,072	0.7
French	10.5	23.4	41.5	60.9	77.8	89.0	100.0	10,897	1.4
General Studies	10.8	23.4	41.0	60.2	78.1	90.1	100.0	10,185	1.4
Geography	15.0	31.1	49.2	68.9	81.7	91.1	100.0	24,580	3.3
German	14.4	30.0	48.7	63.5	78.5	89.9	100.0	26,587	3.7
History	14.5	33.9	53.7	70.8	81.1	91.3	100.0	86,627	12.0
Home Economics	14.0	32.9	54.8	75.3	90.0	96.5	100.0	86,399	11.8
Law	10.1	25.9	49.8	70.4	86.0	94.5	100.0	9,815	1.3
Mathematics	11.7	28.1	47.5	67.4	83.5	92.6	100.0	8,984	1.2
Media/Film/TV Studies	20.9	38.9	59.2	76.5	89.0	95.9	100.0	27,490	3.7
Music	20.1	38.4	57.7	75.4	88.8	95.9	100.0	27,497	3.8
Other Modern Languages	14.0	30.2	49.4	68.9	84.1	93.5	100.0	63,454	8.6
Physics	13.8	29.7	48.1	67.8	82.7	92.4	100.0	57,488	7.9
Political Studies	13.9	31.9	50.5	69.6	83.4	92.0	100.0	42,878	5.8
Psychology	13.3	30.5	48.0	67.8	82.4	91.5	100.0	43,436	6.0
Religious Studies	23.6	41.9	60.8	77.6	88.8	96.3	100.0	10,719	1.5
Sociology	22.4	41.0	60.2	76.9	89.1	96.1	100.0	10,624	1.5
Spanish	14.5	31.9	52.7	71.8	85.8	93.8	100.0	43,355	5.9
Sport/PE Studies	14.1	31.9	52.7	71.8	85.8	93.8	100.0	43,479	6.0
Technology subjects	10.8	22.2	41.3	62.4	86.6	93.7	100.0	2,668	0.4
Welsh	9.8	24.3	46.5	68.8	85.1	93.2	100.0	3,025	0.4
All other subjects	10.8	22.9	38.6	56.1	71.5	83.0	100.0	11,982	1.6
Total	9.8	21.3	37.0	54.7	70.8	82.6	100.0	12,092	1.7
	26.7	46.0	63.0	77.1	88.0	94.4	100.0	87,442	9.1
	28.4	44.8	61.2	75.3	88.0	93.4	100.0	82,193	8.8
	10.6	28.3	57.5	82.3	94.4	98.2	100.0	8,883	1.2
	10.1	27.9	55.8	80.7	93.6	97.7	100.0	7,056	1.0
	19.3	39.7	63.0	82.0	93.5	98.4	100.0	6,518	0.9
	19.1	39.0	62.6	81.4	93.0	97.9	100.0	6,006	0.8
	29.4	51.5	70.3	82.9	91.3	95.7	100.0	5,431	0.7
	28.9	54.2	72.9	85.5	92.1	95.9	100.0	4,679	0.7
	20.6	39.7	57.6	73.1	85.3	94.2	100.0	32,801	4.4
	21.3	37.9	54.8	70.8	84.3	93.3	100.0	34,767	4.8
	14.6	35.9	57.3	75.9	88.3	98.9	100.0	11,292	1.5
	13.0	32.9	54.0	73.1	86.1	92.9	100.0	11,858	1.6
	10.8	28.9	46.3	64.3	79.4	89.2	100.0	23,877	3.2
	10.8	28.9	46.3	64.3	79.4	89.2	100.0	23,877	3.2
	14.3	34.1	57.7	77.5	89.7	95.7	100.0	9,053	1.2
	13.1	31.3	54.0	74.1	87.9	94.9	100.0	8,924	1.2
	11.0	26.4	47.2	68.5	84.9	93.9	100.0	5,141	0.7
	10.9	25.1	43.9	64.0	81.5	91.1	100.0	5,707	0.8
	10.9	26.0	42.4	69.9	74.5	84.2	100.0	29,871	4.0
	9.7	24.8	49.5	70.3	89.5	95.5	100.0	30,580	4.2
	23.8	45.6	64.6	79.8	90.2	95.6	100.0	5,232	0.7
	22.4	43.2	63.0	78.7	89.8	95.5	100.0	4,822	0.7
	6.7	20.1	42.7	68.6	88.6	96.6	100.0	9,732	1.3
	6.8	19.7	43.6	67.1	86.6	93.1	100.0	7,686	1.1
	12.4	26.9	50.6	73.5	88.3	96.2	100.0	11,081	1.5
	17.1	41.2	67.7	85.9	98.2	99.2	100.0	10,747	1.5
	14.3	39.5	64.9	86.3	97.7	99.1	100.0	892	0.1
	12.6	30.2	45.8	62.0	75.7	85.0	100.0	9,934	1.3
	12.1	28.9	44.6	60.1	73.7	83.1	100.0	10,459	1.4
Total	16.0	34.0	53.8	72.1	85.8	93.6	100.0	739,163	100.0
	15.6	32.7	51.7	69.9	84.0	92.5	100.0	725,992	100.0

\*All science subjects except Biology, Chemistry and Physics. \*Modern Languages except French, German, Spanish and candidates gaining grade, 1995 brackets

## Mergers of boards increase rivalry

BY JOHN O'LEARY

THE number of examination boards has fallen dramatically in the past two decades, but competition between those remaining is more intense than ever.

Schools and colleges are switching between boards at an unprecedented rate to give students the best chance of high grades. But teachers insist their choices are motivated more by the style and content of courses than perceived variations in standards.

The 24 boards of 20 years ago had dropped to eight by the time the GCSE was introduced in 1986. The latest merger, between the Oxford and Cambridge boards, has reduced the total to four in England, with one each for Wales and Northern Ireland.

But this has coincided with greater competition, with the boards operating as businesses. The rivalry has satisfied Conservative requirements for greater choice, but even some examiners wonder if competition is compatible with the maintenance of standards.

Greater regulation has been introduced as the inexorable rise in pass rates has raised doubts about the consistency of examining. John Patten, as Education Secretary, brought in a code of practice to tighten procedures and give the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority a monitoring role.

With official reports continuing to find no fault with the current system, however, there has been no intervention on the scale seen in GCSE courses. Ministers are considering parallel powers for the authority to reduce the number of syllabuses as well as to stem the increase in subjects.

## A test of my nerves and finances as much as my offspring's wisdom

HERE we go again. This time, however, I am an older and wiser father. Last year my son, Linus, faced up to his A levels. Panic.

Regarded by his teachers as a bright boy, he gave early announcement that the overdraft we had spent on his education had been wasted. Exams were not his thing, he said. After each paper he reeled off, with ill-concealed satisfaction, the elementary value judgments recorded under his name.

The errors I could forgive but the deliberate flouting of establishment views — well, it wasn't the same in my day. How could he do it? I asked myself. How could he do it? I asked him.

"It's like this," said the idle six-footer, placing a heavy hand on my shoulder. "Exams are a small part of life. What do they prove, after all? Those who score high marks have good memories for received opinions. They are the Daleks of

If at first they don't succeed ... Barry Turner, a veteran of examination angst, offers advice for parents who have been dreading today as much as their children

our society. What we need is men, and women," he added hurriedly, "of spirit and imagination who are prepared to break the mould."

It happened that I had work that took me to a remote farmhouse in Gascony with a capacious wine cellar. It is a form of escape that I recommend to any parent suffering from A-levelitis. Gradually the dark mood lifts. Sedated by gallons of rough red, one grows accustomed to the notion that life's many problems, A levels are but a passing irritant.

I expressed this view when Linus called to tell me how much he was enjoying what he described as his year out before going to university. "Hang

on," I said. "You aren't going to university. Remember? Those A levels? Failures, every one, according to you."

"I wouldn't worry about it, pops," (I wish he wouldn't call me that). "I'll scrape together a few passes to see me through."

Came the day. Dulwich College follows the sadistic tradition of posting A-level results on the noticeboard, a practice reminiscent of the medieval habit of displaying severed heads on pikes at the city gate. Linus, I assumed, would be at the front of the crowd, eager to put himself and his parents out of agony. When I rang he was nowhere to be found. His sister, Sally, who inhabits another world akin to but not actually

joined to this one, thought he might have gone somewhere with a girlfriend.

"But what about his A levels?" I wailed. "What A levels?" she asked sweetly. I rang the school: yes, the A levels were up on the board but, no, they were not at liberty to tell me what, if anything, Linus had gained because they could not be sure of my identity. "But I am his father; you know, the one who pays the fees."

That evening Linus rang to say that he had three grade As and a B. He sounded dejected. When I asked to know what was wrong, he confessed that he had expected straight As. "Why on earth didn't you tell me that before?"

"I didn't want to build up your hopes." Now it is Sally's turn. She goes, or rather went, to Alwyn's, the sister school to Dulwich College, where she was blessed with a form teacher of such patience, sympathy and fortitude that his name deserves to be recorded for posterity. Stand up, please, Mr Kingman.

and take your bow, Sally, as I intimated earlier, is inclined to drift off at critical moments. In consequence, she is brilliant at starting examinations but none too good at finishing them. Her results will depend on marks scored for flashes of inspiration.

I remain calm. No longer the nervous supplicant at the A-level tables, I follow Kipling to meet my children's triumphs and disasters. "And treat those two imposters just the same."

I begin to think that Linus was right first time. Exams are not that important. There are occupations that are free of academic encumbrance. Scouring the prospectuses for opportunities for career women, I find that a pig enterprise management course at the Scottish Agricultural College has a requirement of just one E grade at A level. And it does not even specify a subject.

Excuse me, I must have a chat with my daughter.



Hard-learned lessons: Barry Turner with his children Linus and Sally

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## A-level dropouts find AS is not an easy option

BY DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A LARGE rise in the take-up of AS levels, which cover half the material of an A level, was this year accompanied by a sharp drop in the pass rate. Examination boards said more students were turning to the course expecting it to be an easier option than a full A level, but were finding the standards expected were just as high.

The number of AS levels taken was swollen by students who began modular A levels, where units of the course are examined once they are completed, but decided to switch because early units put them off the full A level.

The School Curriculum and Assessment Authority said yesterday it would be consulting from September on re-vamping the AS level, which is at present a two-year course, to make it easier.

Sir Ron Dearing, chairman of the authority, who last year chaired a major review of exam qualifications for the Government, suggested students should be able to take



Dearing: proposed one-year AS levels

AS levels in a year, and that the standard should match the work expected in the first year of A-level study.

There was an 11 per cent rise in AS-level entries this summer but a fall in passes on the 58,297 papers by 2.4 per cent.

Kathleen Tattersall, chief executive of the Northern Examinations and Assessment

Board and chairman of the Joint Forum for the GCE and GCSE, said: "Sir Ron Dearing proposed an AS-level standard lower than A level and like the first year of A level, taken in one year so it could be the stepping stone to a full A level. This year's figures point to the need for that intermediate examination because of the difficulty of students achieving at the same standard as A level."

This year's extra entries came mostly in subjects available as modular A levels. There were 46.3 per cent more mathematics papers taken, chemistry was up 33.7 per cent, physics 27.1 per cent and biology 21.1 per cent.

Mrs Tattersall added: "This is the first rise in AS levels for a number of years. In those A-level subjects where there is a modular option, candidates have decided to try for AS level but it may very well be they have a mistaken view that they are going to find the AS level easier, because it is at the full A-level standard."

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The splendours of Fishbourne Palace are evidence of how quickly the British adopted Roman culture

## Sumptuous reward for a co-operative chieftain

By Emma Wilkins

FOR King Cogidubnus, chief of the local British tribe, it was home. For anyone else, the Roman palace at Fishbourne was a feat of engineering and craftsmanship that displayed beyond doubt the superiority of a conquering race.

The palace, built some time around AD 75 just a few miles to the west of Chichester, boasted more than 100 rooms, including a bath-house, audience chamber and pleasure gardens. This landscaped estate occupied a site of some ten acres, running down to a private harbour with sea views.

The palace itself, at 250,000 sq ft, was on a scale matched only by Nero's Gold-

en Palace in Rome and would have cost about £8 million in today's money. While there is much debate over its history, the most likely occupant was Cogidubnus, chief of the Atrebatas tribe.

The tribe's previous chief, Verica, had fled to Rome seeking the help of the Emperor Claudius against hostile British neighbours. Once the threat to territory in Sussex and Hampshire was removed, the Atrebatas remained friendly with the Empire.

After the invasion of the Roman army in AD 43, Cogidubnus was made one of Rome's client kings and was allowed to keep his territory



in return for peaceful co-operation with the imperial forces.

David Rudkin, director of Fishbourne Palace, said: "The magnitude of this palace is a huge indication of Roman power. Anyone who came here would be in no doubt about the influence of the Empire." It reveals many

secrets about the relationship between conquerors and conquered, many of whom quickly and willingly adopted the Romans' superior culture.

When building began, local craftsmen were not sophisticated enough to produce high-quality work, so interior decorators were brought in from Gaul. The mosaics they produced can be seen in the original settings, buckled by hand movement but recognisable as patterns, in a covered building over the northwest wing.

Visitors can see the best example of a first-century Roman garden in Britain, with a formal arrangement of box hedges laid out within the villa's walls.

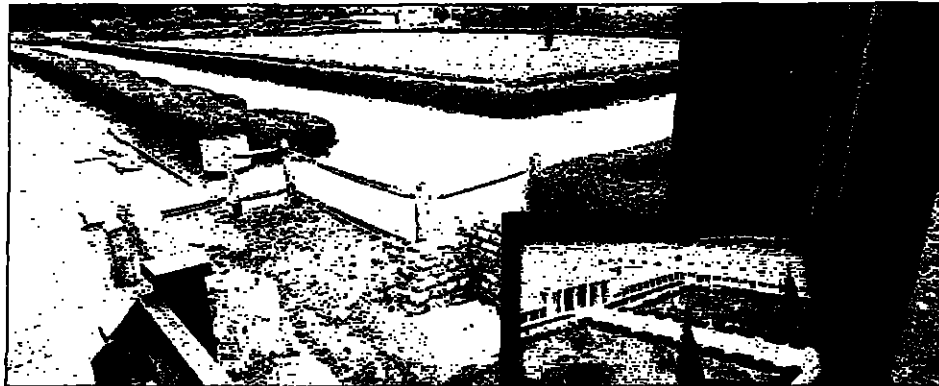
One clue to the history of the garden came from a plant pot, which was found to have four holes around the top, near the rim. According to an account by Pliny, these pots were designed to give plants air during transportation.

"It's likely that the plants here were brought all the way across the empire from Italy and France," Mr Rudkin said. "It's a lavish way to stock the garden and a good indication of the sophistication of the society."

Outside the villa, archaeologists believe they may now have found a water garden with fountains, waterfalls and



Bignor contains the best surviving mosaics in Britain, discovered in 1811 by a farmer ploughing his fields



A recreation of the first-century garden at Fishbourne, with box hedge borders

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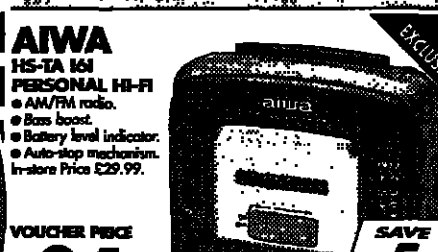
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later when the palace was looted and burnt to the ground, probably by pirates marauding along the South Coast.

By that time, British craftsmen had learnt to copy the Roman style. The villa at Bignor, on the South Downs outside Chichester, had begun as a modest first-century farm, but was substantially redecorated in sumptuous style 200 years later. It boasts the finest surviving mosaics in Britain, including an 82ft-long, beautifully preserved corridor which runs the length of the garden wall.

Historians believe that the owner was a Romano-British merchant who made his fortune from the wool trade and moved from Chichester to the countryside. However, others believe that the erotic mosaic of Ganymede and the eagle, which is almost perfectly preserved in the summer dining room, is an indication that the villa was once an upmarket brothel.

According to Greek myth, the gorgeous youth Ganymede was raped by Zeus who came to him in the shape of an eagle. The Roman version of the story is less racy: Ganymede, a shepherd, was fetched by an eagle to become a cupbearer to the gods.

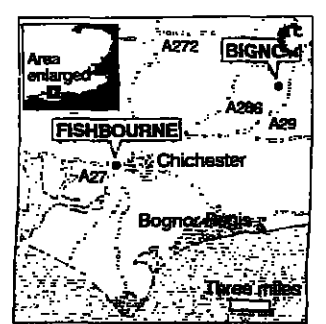
The central panel of the mosaic is surrounded by scantily clad maidens, skipping about a circle and waving their veils, which lends some credence to the theory. Jerry Compton, the custodian of the villa, demurs: "I don't favour the brothel idea, but the villa may have been used as a hunting lodge at one time. We know that a lot of

prosperous people moved out of Chichester to live in the country at the appropriate time. It's more likely to have been the home of a rich merchant."

The excavations at Bignor began in 1811 when a farmer, George Tupper, struck a large stone while ploughing one of his fields. A leading antiquary from London was soon on the scene, directing the digging.

The thatched building, which was constructed in 1813 to cover the mosaics, is so fine that it is listed as a National Heritage scheduled monument. The site is still owned by the Tupper family, who rely solely on entrance fees for the upkeep of the villa.

□ Fishbourne Palace is open daily from February 12 to



December 13 (Sundays only from January 7 to February 11 and December 15-29). Opening hours are 10am to 5pm, 6pm in August. Inquiries: 01243 785859.

Bignor is open from March to May, 10am to 5pm (closed Mondays except Bank Holidays) and June to September, 10am to 6pm daily. In October it is open from 10am to 5pm but closed on Mondays. Inquiries: 01798 869259.

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# Truce shattered as Russian jets blast Chechen refugees

THE two jets banked sharply before diving towards their victims below, unleashing a salvo of rockets into the bedraggled refugee trail and leaving smoke billowing from where they had scored direct hits.

The refugees, who had sought today was the end of their eight-day ordeal in Grozny, fled down the mud track dragging young children behind them and balancing their belongings under their arms. The cars, lorries and buses which had survived the raid crashed and jolted down the hill as fast as their suspensions would allow.

Even by the grim standards of Grozny's short-lived ceasefires, a standing joke for everyone except the residents of the city, yesterday's truce may have achieved something of a record. The airstrike by Sukhoi 25 ground-attack jets on the district of Gikalo occurred exactly five minutes after hostilities were supposed to have ended more than a day's clashes, which have left hundreds of combatants and civilians dead and thousands wounded. "I just managed to



Richard Beeston reports from Grozny on the plight of civilians after yet another dubious ceasefire is flouted

get out with my car and family when they started bombing," said Lara Eldarova, a distraught middle-aged woman, her face reddened by exhaustion and fear.

When we reached the scene of the attack, a Russian truck and a white Volvo were on fire and two men were trying to haul away a third damaged vehicle. It was a miracle no one was killed since the grassy hillside, supposed to have been part of a humanitarian corridor for civilians, was peppered with shrapnel and rocket marks.

"They say there is a ceasefire, then exactly when the refugee rush hour begins they bomb us," said Tamara Magnadova, a representative from the local administration. "They are completely inhuman. It is a moral outrage." Yesterday's attack on

the southern district of Gekalo may have been the worst of the day, but it was not an isolated incident. Elsewhere in Grozny helicopter gunships again went into action and Russian mortars were fired into a residential area, killing two boys.

"We have had our order since 0800 to hold our fire and that is what we have done," said Ahmed Zakayev, a senior rebel commander in charge of the southern district of Grozny. "As you can see, the helicopters are still flying overhead and the warplanes are still bombing."

The Russian side seemed genuinely in disarray over whether or not it had agreed to a ceasefire and, if so, what the conditions were. General Konstantin Pulikovskiy, the commander of Russian forces in Chechnya and the sup-



Masked Russian police officers search a car in Nazran, a town on the road to Grozny, the Chechen capital

posed signatory of the deal, confirmed that he had agreed to "suspend fighting" but denied ever concluding a formal truce.

Aslan Maskhadov, the Chechen military commander and General Pulikovskiy's negotiating partner, gave a warning that the consequences of yesterday's viola-

tions could have severe repercussions, particularly for General Aleksandr Lebed, the Kremlin security chief and the man charged with ending the 20-month conflict in Chechnya.

"If Lebed cannot pull off a ceasefire like this, then what hope can there be for peace?" the Chechen military chief

said. At a checkpoint south of Grozny, drunken Russian troops did not seem to know or care. "No one has given us any new orders," said Aleksandr, a young lieutenant, as his men looted a Chechen car full of boxes of cigarettes.

□ Moscow: Army units have been firing indiscriminately at civilians fleeing the fighting.

the pro-Moscow Chechen Government said yesterday (Thomas de Waal writes). Its mission in Moscow said 29 people, including some children, had been killed when a Russian warplane fired at a lorry in the town of Gudermes. Elsewhere, six mourners in the north were killed by fire from a plane.

## Doubts grow over election in Bosnia

By EVE-ANN PRENTICE  
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

TENSION over next month's Bosnian election intensified yesterday as the head of the organisation running it expressed deep doubts about its fairness, and an influential think-tank called for the vote to be postponed.

Warren Christopher, the American Secretary of State, meanwhile held a series of reportedly fraught meetings with the leaders of the Serbs, Croats and Muslims as he tried to win promises of more co-operation to enable the elections to be free and fair.

At the Geneva meeting, President Tudjman of Croatia renewed pledges that the troublesome Bosnian Croat mini-state of Herceg-Bosna would be dismantled. But American officials expressed caution because earlier pledges have not been fulfilled.

The call for a postponement of the elections came from the International Crisis Group, which includes Thorvald Stoltenberg, the veteran Balkan negotiator, and several former Prime Ministers, and is chaired by former US Senator George Mitchell, who also chairs the Northern Ireland talks. The group said conditions for the September 14 poll were "totally unacceptable" and that going ahead would do more harm than good.

Nicholas Hinton, president of the group, said: "The consequences will be extremely damaging for Bosnia-Herzegovina and could mark the end of the peace process."

Doubts about the fairness of the poll were also expressed by Flavio Cotti, head of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, which is organising the elections. He was later due to meet Mr Christopher after his talks with Presidents Tudjman, Izetbegovic of Bosnia and Milosevic of Serbia.

Meanwhile, the Muslim-Croat assembly in the Bosnian city of Mostar elected a Croat Mayor and Muslim Deputy Mayor at its first joint session. It also emerged that a heavily outnumbered Nato team encountered Ratko Mladic, commander of the Bosnian Serb Army, at the weekend but did not try to apprehend him.

## French police say runway raiders may be in Spain

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

GUNMEN who escaped with up to £500,000 in cash after robbing an aircraft at Perpignan airport in the south of France may have escaped to Spain, police said yesterday.

The raid was carried out in daylight moments after Air France Europe Flight 5243 landed down from Paris on Tuesday evening. The aircraft was carrying 167 passengers, six crew and a Brink's security shipment of French banknotes. As the Airbus A320 taxied, at least four hooded men armed with rifles and handguns used two vehicles to block the runway. They held up a banner reading: "Shut off your engines and open the hold."

The raiders fired three or four shots, one of which reportedly hit the nose of the aircraft. They then removed two sacks of cash before driving off at high speed. Initially they were thought to have taken Fr4 million, but detectives said later that the cash was in pesetas, and would not say how much. The raid was over in less than four minutes. A spokesman for Air France Europe said as many

as ten men may have taken part in the hold-up.

A police officer said: "This was a commando operation carried out by the hand of a master criminal."

The robbers appear to have headed west on the main autoroute to Foix but, the police said, they could have doubled back along minor roads and crossed the Spanish border 20 miles from Perpignan. Under the Schengen agreement, the border between Spain and France is open, with only occasional spot checks.

A police search was under way yesterday and the authorities asked anyone to come forward who might have seen the robbers.

They gained access to the airport runway by forcing the lock on a perimeter gate on the far side of the airport from the main entrance. A small cove of oaks just outside the fence ensured that their vehicles were not seen from the control tower, more than a mile away.

Before escaping, the robbers blocked the gate with two vans to hinder pursuit, then transferred to a third vehicle.

## Mitterrand monuments tarnished

By BEN MACINTYRE

TWO of the "grand works" initiated by the late President Mitterrand have come under attack this week amid claims that the restored Tuileries gardens have become a fairground and the new Opéra Bastille is falling apart.

The Jardin des Tuileries, the great 16th-century park of the French kings designed by André Le Nôtre in the heart of Paris, has been overrun by tourist attractions, according to critics of the Socialist leader's *grands travaux*.

Alongside the elegant paths and flowerbeds can be found a vast Ferris wheel, an ice rink, restaurants seating up to 1,500 people, food stalls and shooting galleries.

The city authorities say that they cannot afford to pay the gardeners without renting out parts of the park to vendors and side-shows.

Meanwhile, the ultra-modern Opéra building at the Bastille, which was completed in a hurry to allow Mitterrand to preside over its grand opening in 1989, is already showing signs of serious wear and tear. Stones on the facade are beginning to crack and last month a steel plaque came loose.

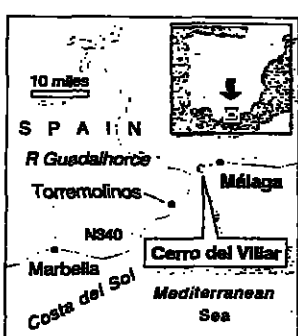
## Phoenician city found near Málaga

By TUNKU VARADARAJAN

SPANISH archaeologists have unearthed the site of the biggest Phoenician settlement discovered so far on the Iberian peninsula, dating to at least the 8th century BC.

The site, which the elated archaeologists say was once "a teeming city", lies at Cerro del Villar, an unassuming hillside situated between the city of Málaga and the nearby Guadalquivir river.

The Phoenicians were among the first foreign colonisers of the southern coast of "Spain", or "the hidden land" as they christened the peninsula. Among their distinguished achievements was the founding in 1100 BC of Gadir, later to become Cádiz. They also founded settlements at Adra, Villaricos and Almuñécar, as well as some near Málaga.



Since virtually nothing survives today of Phoenician Gadir, the site at Cerro del Villar provides scholars with a view into the urban ways and methods of the enterprising seafarers from Tyre who settled in Spain, attracted by its fishing grounds and the purple dye of its shellfish.

The archaeologists had speculated initially that the remains at Cerro del Villar

might have been of the ancient city of Mainake, also believed to have been near modern Málaga, which was built in the 7th century BC by the Phoenicians, a people from central Greece. But the settlement is at least a century too old to have been anything else but Phoenician.

According to Maria Eugenia Aubet, the director of the dig, Cerro del Villar has exceeded "beyond all imagination" the archaeologists' expectations. She said: "We thought initially we had found a small Phoenician settlement of around two hectares (nearly five acres), of the kind that is not uncommon. Later, we realised that what we had before us were the remains of a city in which perhaps a thousand people once lived."

The city, which was up to 15 hectares in size, is described by Dr Aubet as having "im-

pressive rectilinear streets, plazas and an internal organisation that seems very modern". Her team, from Barcelona's Pompeu Fabra University, has found evidence of large ovens, used for the manufacture of ceramics, and a residential zone, "where some of the more luxurious houses had eight or nine rooms and central patios".

Apart from their recognised skill as sailors and glass-blowers, the Phoenicians from Iberia had, it seems, a reputation for sensuality. The Roman poet Marcial, who lived several centuries after the city was in its Phoenician pomp, refers approvingly in his epigrams to "girls from wanton Gadir, who with endless prurience, swing lascivious loins in practised writhings".

Leading article, page 17

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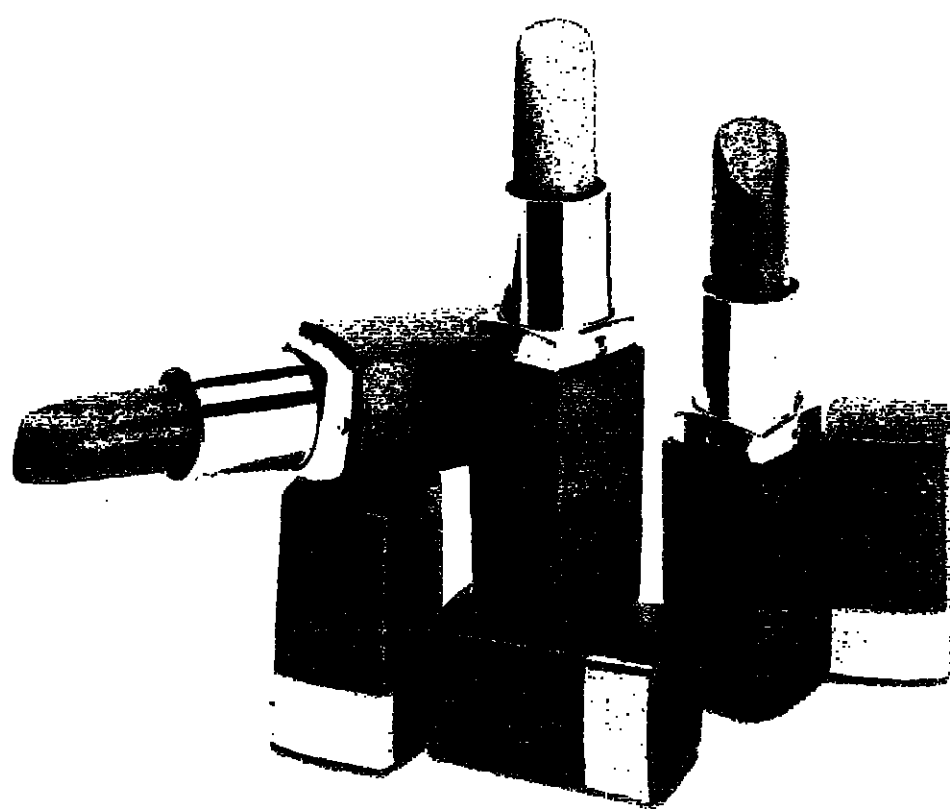
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Someone Cares

**By Tim Hames**

In years past they were rewarded with a speaking slot, occasionally in prime time. Not so in San Diego. The best they get is a small appearance on a party video heavily scripted by the Dole campaign handlers. All but one of the ten men who opposed the eventual victor are having little impact.

## COMMENTARY

million) personally spent during the campaign now looks a better investment than it did six months ago. He is supplemented by a torrent of activity from Citizens for a Sound Economy, the 250,000-member group most associated with his cause. Its predominantly young supporters are everywhere in San Diego, festooned with balloons, stickers and T-shirts exclaiming "Annoy the IRS" (the Internal Revenue Service) and "Support the Flat Tax!" and distributing oversized badges with the same message to eager delegates. Their party at the Planet Hollywood restaurant today hosted by

Mr Forbes and Dick Armey, second in command to Newt Gingrich in the House of Representatives, is the glamorous outing of the week. They have swamped the CNN television station with commercials arguing that their proposals would put Washington's detested lobbyists out of business. These flat-tax fanatics believe that they represent the Republican future.

They may be right. Their position is the logical extension of the party's hostility to tax and regulation. Its strength is the almost universal loathing felt for the present US tax system. This produces some 480 tax forms. The

standard document used by most citizens requires an average of 12 hours' work to fill in. It is estimated that the eight billion pieces of paper produced by the IRS need nearly six billion man-hours to complete at an estimated cost of \$200 billion.

The alternative backed by Mr. Forbes, Mr. Arment and Richard Shelby, an Alabama senator, would be radically different. All Americans would receive generous personal allowances — \$1,130 for single people and \$22,700 for married couples — plus a further \$5,300 per child. In return, there would be no deductions or loopholes. All income above these

figures would be taxed at a single 17 percent rate. A family with two children earning up to \$33,300 would pay zero federal income tax. At \$50,000, they would owe only \$2,639. Its backers believe this generous treatment of lower incomes would offset the charge that one band favours the rich. The income tax formula could be reduced to postcard size and dealt with in under five minutes. Money from savings or investments would be taxed only once.

For the flat tax to prosper swiftly requires three factors. First, a Republican President. Second, that the imprecise promise Mr Dole has

made to move towards it is turned into something more specific. Enthusiasts believe that Mr Kemp, if Vice-President, would ensure that the 2000 election was fought on implementing that package.

Finally, an element of compromise. Although Americans are attracted to the concept, they would not want to lose two very popular allowances, those for mortgage interest payment and charitable contributions. This would slightly upset the purity of the programme, but politics dictates adjustments. However, win or lose in 1996, Republican interest in the ultimate tax reform is likely to endure.

**FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN SAN DIEGO**



General Powell was said to be genuinely excited by Mr Dole's selection of his friend, Jack Kemp, as running-mate last Saturday because Mr

Cribbing from the Democrats, who produced a video called *The Man From Hope* that transformed Bill Clinton's image during the party's 1992 convention, convention organisers have prepared a powerful film biography of Mr Dole. Elizabeth Dole was expected to break all precedents by wandering among the delegates on the floor with a microphone in her hand and talking about her husband. Mr Dole's daughter, Robin,

Unlike the Democrats, Republicans "don't define compassion by how many people are on welfare or living in public housing", he declared. "We define compassion by how *few* people are on welfare and public housing because we have given them the means to climb the ladder of success."



## SAN DIEGO NOTEBOOK

**T**he whole point of this convention is to propel Bob Dole to victory this November, but

**M**r Dole has suddenly developed a family. Not only is his wife, Elizabeth, rushing around promoting him, so is his 41-year-old daughter by his first marriage who had previously stayed well out of the limelight.

Mr Dole is fortunate to have such a loyal and supportive daughter. Richard Ben Cramer, his biographer, tells a story to illustrate just how little attention Mr Dole paid her when she was growing up. Aged 11, she wanted her ears pierced. Her father was so obsessed with building his political career that she hardly ever saw him. The only way she could ask his permission was to leave a "speed memo" on his bed with two boxes marked "yes" and "no". He replied with a third box marked "maybe" and "I'll talk to you on Tuesday". That was four days away, an eternity for a young girl in a hurry.

MARTIN FLETCHER

**FROM TOM RHODES  
IN WASHINGTON**

IT WAS almost midnight on a Saturday evening in December 1994 when General Colin Powell received a telephone call from President Clinton asking the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to drop into the White House for a chat. The following day Mr

Mr Powell told the President that, for personal reasons, he wanted no further involvement in public office. "Left unspoken were my reservations about the amorphous

way the Administration handled foreign policy, a style with which I was already familiar," Mr Powell wrote in his autobiography, *My American Journey*. "I did not see how I could fit back into this operation without changes so radical that the President would probably have difficulty making them."

In the early years of the Clinton presidency, Mr Powell ploughed a furrow of caution at the Pentagon. Even friends viewed the Powell doctrine as too cautious on the use of force.

He firmly believes that the United States is the leader of the Western world and the foundation upon which nascent democracies in Eastern Europe wish their security to

rest. But he still views economic dominance as the most successful lever for peace. "In this new world, economic strength will be more important than military strength," he writes. "The new order will be defined by trade relations, by the flow of information, capital, technology, and goods, rather than by armies glaring at each other."

FROM QUENTIN LETTS  
IN NEW YORK

Examination of the jumbo jet's central fuel tank, which caught fire in the incident, has suggested that it did not explode until 24 seconds after an initial blast on board the Paris-bound Boeing 747.

The new evidence backed a theory, likely to be confirmed shortly by officials, that some sort of bomb exploded in the cabin of the airliner, causing it to break up. The explosion in the central fuel tank, situated in the belly of the jumbo, probably happened when the aircraft was already in a steep dive towards the 120ft-deep waters of Moriches Bay.

more violent sort of blast associated with explosives. The latter would have twisted the metal more dramatically.

It is thought that the first explosion, from a device that was possibly hidden in a serving galley or in a carry-on suitcase placed in an overhead

Once the disaster has been officially recognised as an act of sabotage, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which has already been involved in the hunt for clues, will take over the case and mount a full investigation into the fate of Flight 800.


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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY AUGUST 15 1996

RK

# Jobless total at five-year low

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

UNEMPLOYMENT fell to its lowest for five years last month, with the underlying trend continuing downwards, according to the Office for National Statistics.

The number of seasonally adjusted unemployment claimants fell by 24,100 to 2,126,200 in July — 7.6 per cent of the workforce.

The Government seized on the figures, which represent the fifth consecutive monthly fall, as evidence of a strengthening job market. Eric Forth, Education and Employment Minister, pointed to a new ONS estimate that the downward trend in unemployment has accelerated to about 15,000 a month.

The size of the fall surprised the City, prompting some fears that a tightening in the labour market could reignite inflation as wages begin to rise. But Jonathan Loynes, UK economist at HSBC markets, said: "The figures were stronger than expected and provide some tentative evidence the labour market is tightening gently, but there is no need to fear a surge in wage pressures."

The number of long-term unemployed also continued to

## Strike days on increase

THE number of working days lost through strikes jumped to a six-year high in June (Alasdair Murray writes). A total of 228,000 were lost (7,000 in May) involving 133,000 workers (4,000 in May). The figures will rise in July, with the inclusion of the London Underground strikes. Disputes by Royal Mail, Benefits Agency and Derbyshire firemen continue, while action is due at several train operating companies.

30 per cent rise in youth unemployment during the past three years. Stephen Byers, Shadow Employment Minister, said the number of 16- and 17-year-olds out of work totalled 142,000 in the spring compared with 110,000 in the spring of 1993.

Unemployment fell across the regions, with the largest drops in the South East, Greater London, West Midlands and North West. There were also falls in male and female unemployment, with the number of jobless men declining 17,800 to 1,613,600, while women's unemployment fell 6,300 to 512,600.

There was more evidence of the weakness of the manufacturing sector. Figures for June showed a 51,600 year-on-year fall in employment in the manufacturing industries, although there was a small monthly rise from May.

Unadjusted unemployment increased by 61,747 to 2,158,073 between June and July, traditionally a volatile month because of the arrival of university graduates in the workforce. The ONS said that it believed the adjusted figures may have slightly overstated the fall in July.

Michael Saunders, UK economist at Salomon Brothers, added that there was some evidence that unemployment figures were being generally depressed by the rising numbers of people at universities or on other benefits.

Unemployment among men of 18 to 25 and over 50 stands well below its ten-year average, but unemployment for men aged 25 to 49 has only just decreased to its ten-year average. Unemployment for the 25-49 age group also remains 50 per cent above its July 1990 level, whereas the overall jobless total is only 30 per cent higher.

Pennington, page 25

## SBC sets aside £70m for bonuses

By ROBERT MILLER

SWISS Bank Corporation (SBC), which now owns Warburg, the London broker, has set aside a SFr149 million (£70 million) bonus pot to reward its top executives and senior traders.

The performance-related bonuses were enhanced by sparkling performances from SBC Warburg and the Swiss bank's private banking arm. This helped to lift the group's gross operating profits 33 per cent to SFr2.1 billion in the first half.

The bank said the growth in personnel expenses "was due entirely to performance-related compensation" — another way of describing bonuses. Personnel expenses rose sharply to SFr2.1 billion in the six months to June 30, compared with SFr1.6 billion previously.

In spite of the Swiss bank's higher depreciation and provisioning charges, up 37 per cent to SFr681 million and 16 per cent to SFr383 million respectively, the group reported pre-tax profits of SFr996 million compared with SFr724 million in the same period last year.

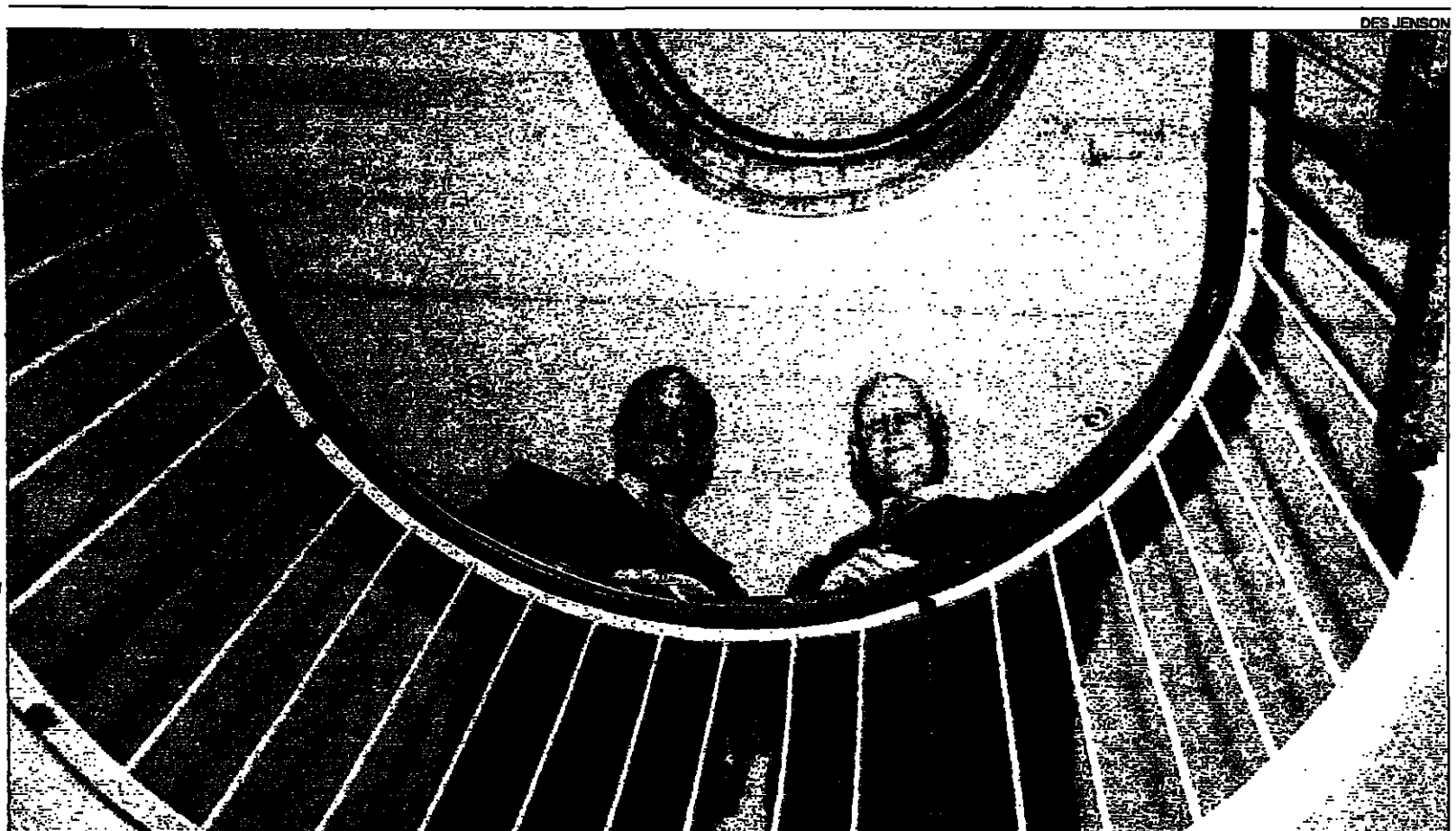
Swiss Bank Corporation said that the integration of Warburg had been successfully completed. The company added: "The financial goals set at the time of acquisition have been exceeded to date. The new organisational structure announced in May 1996 built around the four divisions — domestic, SBC private banking, SBC Warburg and SBC Brinson — is proceeding according to plan and will be fully operational by the end of 1996."

Net commission income at SBC rose 58 per cent to SFr2.1 billion, while revenue from trading and risk management increased 27 per cent to SFr1.5 billion.

Of the outlook for the full year, SBC said: "The bank is relatively cautious in its outlook for the remainder of the year in view of the uncertainties on the financial markets and the difficult economic environment. Provisioning needs are consequently expected to remain high in the second half."

## BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FT-SE 100	3820.2	(+8.5)
Yield	4.05%	
FT-SE All share	1894.85	(+3.03)
Nikkei	20981.11	(+116.18)
Dow Jones	5653.38	(+11.10)
S&P Composite	861.57	(+1.37)
US RATE		
Federal Funds	5.75%	(5%)
Long Bond	95%	(95%)
Yield	6.79%	(6.78%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-month Interbank	5.75%	(5.75%)
Life long gilt	107.75	(108.00)
Future (Sep)	107.75	(108.00)
STERLING		
New York	1.5488	(1.5488)
London	1.5488	(1.5488)
DM	2.3000	(2.2900)
FF	7.8611	(7.8478)
Sfr	1.2678	(1.2614)
Yen	167.16	(168.55)
£ index	96.2	(96.0)
Tokyo close Yen	107.77	
NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Oct)	\$20.10	(\$20.25)
GOLD		
London close	\$386.45	(\$387.65)
* denotes midday trading price		



Ron Henderson, left, finance director, and Alan Jones believe that the benefits of the rationalisation at BICC Cables are already apparent

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

## BICC takes £65m charge

A FRESH round of exceptional charges and a poor performance by its Balfour Beatty contracting business plunged BICC, the construction and cables group, into the red in the first half of this year.

BICC reported a £2 million pre-tax loss in the six months to June 29 compared with a £60 million profit in the same period last year. Before exceptional items, the group made a profit of £63 million.

The £65 million provisions included £25 million for rationalisation and asset write-downs at its German cables arm, KWO; £35 million for a write-down of the value of its Spitalfields site in London; and £5 million on property developments.

In 1995, the company took exceptional charges of £176 million for restructuring and the loss suffered on its sale of Clarke Homes.

Balfour Beatty suffered in the first half from bad debts in North America and "disappointing contract settlements" in the civil engineering and power engineering businesses.

The recently acquired rail business are already performing well and helped to offset losses elsewhere.

Alan Jones, chief executive, said the benefits of its rationalisation programme at BICC Cables were already apparent and that investment

## Grid hopes to save £800m Pakistan deal

NATIONAL GRID, the transmission company, is awaiting John Major's signature to save an £800 million order for a ground-breaking project in Pakistan (Morag Preston writes).

The order for the 1,400km transmission line that runs through the Indus Valley was first discussed when Benazir Bhutto, the Prime Minister, met Mr Major in London in November 1994, but the Pakistan Water and Power Development Authority has since revised its options, according to the Department of Trade and Industry.

National Grid was awarded the concession for the 500kv transmission line, nicknamed "Bom", in April 1995.

## Franc talk

A concerted verbal defence of the French franc appears to be under way, with senior officials of the Bundesbank holding out hope of a cut in German interest rates and the French Prime Minister denying any policy tensions between the Government and Bank of France. The franc came under strong pressure last Friday on speculation that France was seeking a delay to the start of the single currency. Page 23

## Metal bashing

Lower metals prices and difficult trading conditions at home and abroad hit first-half profits at Gwynedd, the engineering group. The company reported pre-tax profits down 3.1 per cent to £40.2 million. Page 25

## Lloyd's rescue irrational and perverse, says QC

By JON ASHWORTH

RICHARD GORDON, QC, said that compulsory premiums linked to Equitas, the new reinsurance company, amounted to "cross-subsidies" that infringed the fundamental principle that no member could be held responsible for the debts of others. The imposition of a Central Fund levy on past, present and future members to meet outstanding liabilities was also in breach of the Lloyd's liability principle, as was the proposal to write-off £700 million owed by non-paying members to the Central Fund.

Mr Gordon said it would be wrong for the court to refuse the Paying Names a declaration that the rescue plan was unlawful because of fears that it might result in "chaos" for Lloyd's. That was an invitation

## Titan investors may chase £17m

By ROBERT MILLER

THOUSANDS of angry investors who joined Titan, the money-circulation scheme, may form a protest group to recoup losses now believed to top £17 million, after the scheme was closed down in the High Court yesterday.

Mr Registrar Rawson issued compulsory winding-up orders on the original Titan Business Club and associated enterprises and ordered that Michael Pugh, the Official Receiver, be appointed provisional liquidator.

Titan signed up some 12,000 investors who each paid a joining fee of between £2,500 and £3,000 and sought to recover their money by signing up four or five other members. The Department of Trade and Industry applied to the High Court in June to have

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TIM15-SCON



# Campaign aims to calm fears over franc

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

A CONCERTED verbal defence of the French franc appears to be under way, with senior officials of the Bundesbank holding out hope of a cut in German interest rates and the French Prime Minister denying any policy tensions between the Government and Bank of France.

The franc came under strong pressure last Friday on speculation that France was seeking a delay to the start of the single currency, that the Government wanted to push the central bank into sharper cuts in interest rates and that the Bundesbank was disinclined to bail out the franc by shaving German rates.

But this week has been characterised by soothing noises from Frankfurt and Paris. Earlier this week, Hans Tietmeyer, President of the Bundesbank, said he was confident that monetary union would begin on time. The August monthly report from the Bundesbank left the door

open to a further fall in money market rates if the trend of money supply allowed.

Yesterday, Oskar Issing, the Bundesbank's chief economist, told the *International Herald Tribune* that he was doubtful whether the German economy could continue to recover and made it clear that the bank was not happy with the recent rise in the mark against the dollar and other currencies.

In relying on trends in money supply as a pointer to the right level of interest rates, Herr Issing, one of the most orthodox members of the Bundesbank's policy-making council, was also confident that growth in M3 money supply would slow further.

His remarks convinced the markets that the Bundesbank is preparing the ground for a cut in its key money market repurchase rate. The council returns from its four-week summer break next Thursday.

Alain Juppé, French Prime Minister, joined the effort to allay market nerves surrounding the franc, the mark and prospects for monetary union. He said yesterday that there were no policy differences between the Government and the Bank of France and that recent fluctuations in the franc were a storm in a teacup.

Investors sold the franc last Friday because of speculation that Jacques Chirac, the French President, wanted the Bank of France to cut interest rates more boldly to offset weakness in the economy, and soaring unemployment.

M Juppé said yesterday that the Government shared the central bank's objective of a stable currency and that its determination to break the vicious circle of the deficit was greater than ever. He said he was confident France would meet the Maastricht criteria for joining a single currency.

Economic View, page 27

## FOUR STAR RATES

Bank	Rate	Bank	Rate
Australia S	2.08	Bank	1.82
Austria Sch	17.15	Boys	16.85
Belgium Fr	30.21	Canada S	2.236
Canada S	2.236	Cyprus Cyp	0.691
Cyprus Cyp	0.691	Denmark Kr	5.45
Denmark Kr	5.45	Finland Mkt	7.47
Finland Mkt	7.47	France Fr	8.25
France Fr	8.25	Germany Dr	2.45
Germany Dr	2.45	Greece Dr	352
Greece Dr	352	Hong Kong S	12.82
Hong Kong S	12.82	Ireland P	1.13
Ireland P	1.13	Israel Shk	4.81
Israel Shk	4.81	Italy Lit	2.067
Italy Lit	2.067	Japan Yen	161.00
Japan Yen	161.00	Malta	0.594
Malta	0.594	Netherlands Gld	2.038
Netherlands Gld	2.038	Norway Kr	2.41
Norway Kr	2.41	Portugal Esc	207.00
Portugal Esc	207.00	S Africa Rd	7.81
S Africa Rd	7.81	Spain Pta	166.50
Spain Pta	166.50	Sweden Kr	10.32
Sweden Kr	10.32	Switzerland Fr	2.00
Switzerland Fr	2.00	Turkey Lira	1937.00
Turkey Lira	1937.00	USA \$	1.597
USA \$	1.597		

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



Star signing: Dutch international Pierre van Hooijdonk cost Celtic £1.2 million

## Celtic loses off the pitch

By GEORGE SIVELL

CELTIC, the Glasgow football club listed on the Alternative Investment Market, increased losses after tax to £1.01 million from £401,000 in the year June in spite of a rise in turnover and a return to operating profits.

The club wrote off £3.8 million from its assets after a conservative review of the value of its team in the wake of the so-called Bosman ruling, which means that players are free to leave a football club once their contracts have finished.

Celtic has spent £12 million in the past two years on acquiring 10 new players.

Sales rose 54 per cent to £16 million, thanks to a return to Celtic Park, and profits from operations reached £2.7 million after a £180,000 loss in 1995. Celtic Park can now seat 47,600, and the club has sold about 40,000 season tickets for the coming season. Last season Celtic had 29,500 season ticket holders, up from the 18,500 registered in the previous year.

Celtic says that all its publishing, broadcasting, catering, branded merchandise and Pools operations had shown increases in sales.

The ordinary shares were unchanged yesterday at £275 against the issue price of £64 in September 1995. The club is worth £116 million on the stock market. Net assets at the end of June were £31.3 million against £29 million in 1995.

Holders of the preference shares, which carry the right to a fixed 6 per cent dividend, have seen an increase from £60 to £225.

## Munich Re plans US takeover

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN FRANKFURT

MUNICH Re, the world's largest reinsurance group, yesterday revealed plans to take over American Re for \$3.3 billion, boosting its share of the lucrative US market.

The German company said its \$65 per share offer had the backing of Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co (KKR), the investment firm that owns 64 per cent of American Re. The

takeover should be complete by the end of the year. Regulatory authorities and minority shareholders had yet to approve the deal.

Fresh from its shock takeover of Europe's leading health insurer DKV last month, Munich Re said its latest acquisition would increase premium income from reinsurance to DM22.5 billion

and overall income to DM37 billion.

Hans-Juergen Schinzier, the Munich Re management board chairman, said: "The purchase means a big step forward for our core reinsurance business."

American Re is the third largest non-life reinsurance group in the United States with gross premiums of \$26

billion and a 10 per cent market share. This compares with expected 1996 premiums of DM300 million at Munich Re's own US unit, Munich American Re.

Pressure increased last month on the US firm to merge with a larger group after General Re Corp, its rival, assimilated fellow-reinsurer National Re Corp.

## Telecoms cash-saver from Racal

By ERIC REGULY

RACAL, the electronics group, has introduced a service, in partnership with BMS Bossard, a management consultancy, aimed at saving money for customers of BT, Mercury and other phone companies.

Racal has determined that phone companies have been overcharging business customers by as much as 5 per cent for data transmission services. The Racal-Bossard service is based on a software tool that identifies discrepancies. There is no fee; Racal and Bossard will take one third of any amount recovered.

Ron Brender, Bossard's managing director, said: "The collective overcharging could easily amount to millions of pounds a year. We know of organisations that are spending as much as £20 million a year on international data transmission." He said the overcharging is typically the result of "human error", such as failing to apply a discount or disconnect a circuit. Mr Brender said the service is unique and may be introduced into foreign markets.

A BT spokesman said: "It is impossible to be absolutely precise on charges. We always reimburse our customers if they are overcharged."

## Ofgas shifts TransCo deadline

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

BRITISH GAS will have to wait until next Wednesday to hear the pricing curbs to be imposed on TransCo, its pipeline business, after the regulator delayed an announcement for the third time.

The final word on the pricing proposals, first outlined by Clare Spottiswoode in May, was supposed to have been delivered today. But on Monday Ms Spottiswoode ordered re-writing of parts of the report — a process that is still going on. The delays have prompted speculation that Ofgas is moderating its initial proposals, which angered the company and shareholders.

Ms Spottiswoode's initial proposals planned a one-off cut for TransCo's prices next year of between 20 and 25 per cent and thereafter RPI-5 per cent for four years. Her figures were on Tuesday broadly mirrored by the electricity regulator's proposals for the National Grid. Price curbs for the transmission business are planned at a one-off charge next year of between 20 per cent and 26 per cent and RPI-4 for three years thereafter.

The Energy Intensive Users Group says Ofgas should deliver a pricing review at least in line with that.

Wagner says several takeover approaches have been received

## MAID seeks further alliances

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

MAID, the online computer company, said yesterday it was confident of signing new strategic alliances to add to recent deals to supply services to CompuServe, IBM and Forte.

Dan Wagner, founder and chief executive, added that the company had received frequent takeover approaches but was happy to continue on an independent course at present. Mr Wagner would not say which companies had shown an interest in buying MAID, although recent market speculation has centred on Reuters Holdings.

Mr Wagner's comments

came as the company unveiled an interim £3.3 million loss, compared with profits of £408,000 last year. MAID said the loss reflected heavy investment costs. The company does not expect a further increase in operating costs as the expansion programme is complete.

An increased presence in the US and Europe helped turnover to rise 65 per cent to £9.6 million. The company added 1,200 new corporate subscribers in the first six months of this year — double the total number in the full year for 1995.

MAID also revealed details of its new international executive division, designed to supervise the group's global strategy and development. It will be headed by Mr Wagner and will oversee activity in North America, Europe and Asia-Pacific. MAID's base in London will be run by Derek Smith who becomes managing director. The North American business will be run by Jason Mollie, while Ciaran Morton will act as president of Asia-Pacific.

Pennington, page 25



Wagner: founder

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Tradepoint lo

Lloyds Chemists



□ Lloyds Chemists still set for takeover □ Wage rises no threat to inflation □ Wagner confounds City doubters

## Watering down the medicine

□ SOME people are so terribly naive. The stock market has somehow gained the impression that both the rival bidders for Lloyds Chemists, the country's second-biggest chain of pharmacies, have lost some of their enthusiasm for the business.

Their initial offers earlier this year raised clear competition issues in both retail and wholesale pharmaceutical markets, and there was great doubt whether they would be allowed. Instead, a deeply-split Monopolies and Mergers Commission waved them through less than a month ago with relatively trivial conditions attached. One might have jumped, to reflect the market's relief. But the price has fallen. Why?

Neither Gehe, the German owner in this country of the AAH business, nor Unichem, the rival bidder, will discuss their intentions. Instead, a sniping campaign, conducted in whispers around the City and in parts of the financial press, seems to have been designed to rubbish the opposition while gently talking down the price that Lloyds may eventually be worth.

Both have until October 18 to comply with the conditions imposed, requiring them to find acceptable buyers for much of Lloyds's wholesale business. If their respective stances can be

judged at all, then Gehe is doing more to talk down expectations than its rival. It is said that the loss of the wholesale business will deprive any eventual purchaser of £3 million of annual profits, rising perhaps beyond £5 million if potential cost savings are taken into account.

It is said that a couple of gloomy trading statements from Lloyds, which have scaled back analysts' profits forecasts by £10 million to £50 million for the year just ended, make the business less valuable. It is even hinted that the sale by the wife of the Lloyds chairman of shares worth £13.5 million while the offers were with the MMC means even the Lloyds camp is worried about the value of the business.

Gehe, a German quoted company with no real reason to lift its skirts and give its competitors inside information, chose to release figures from AAH yesterday. These provided the opportunity to make some comparisons that were not flattering to Unichem.

This is significant, because Gehe was offering cash last time, while Unichem went for cash

and shares. That pattern will be repeated when — and it is a when, not an if — the bidding starts again. Any fall in the Unichem's share price would therefore deflate the value of a renewed bid. The Germans initially offered £5 a share, while a replay of Unichem's package today would be worth approaching £30p.

Lloyds shares were 470p last night, which suggests that a new bidding war, in a few weeks' time, will have to be pitched well above this level. Investors would be very foolish to pay too much heed to any further posturing in the meantime.

### The good news is really good news

□ THERE is no reason to feel bad just because a few more people are able to share in the economic expansion. Only City pessimists worry over such things. Growth in average earnings, steady at 3.4 per cent since February, has merely failed to fall back to 3.5 per cent, as the surprising (and false) pro-



visional figures for May suggested it would. With inflation at 2.5 to 3 per cent, it would be seriously bad for the economy at this stage if earnings were not making headway in real terms.

Manufacturing earnings have been growing at between 4 and 4.5 per cent for more than a year. Thankfully, real pay in service industries has now also stopped falling at last. But the labour market as a whole is still helping to cut inflation.

Pessimists still worry about the higher than expected fall in unemployment in July, taking it down from 7.7 to 7.6 per cent. If you accept the Bank of England line on sustainable growth, which underlies its interest rate advice to the Chancellor, then

any fall in dole queues below about 8 per cent risks stoking up pay demands and strikes, and accelerating inflation.

Over the year to end-March, however, there was hardly any net increase in employment in spite of the number of those claiming benefit falling some months. This subdued picture is unlikely to have changed in the second quarter. Among men, who took most of the jobs in industries sensitive to pay inflation, unemployment is still running above 10 per cent.

Strikes are on the increase, true. But the serious ones are in the public sector, where pay is dictated not by the labour market but by the Treasury's need to keep public spending down artificially at its employees' expense. This would seem to be stoking up trouble for the next Chancellor, if not before the election.

In the private sector there is little sign of inflationary pressure. That may not comfort City types who assume that Eddie George will use a temporary rise in retail price inflation, expected today, and falling unemployment to tip the balance in favour

of a pre-emptive rise in interest rates. But logically, if they have faith in the Bank's view they should also believe that a small rate rise now will avoid worse later on — and would therefore be good for asset values.

### When mistakes are MAID

□ IN THE City, Dan Wagner was the client from Hell. Small companies, especially high technology stocks, always come to market with an unshakeable belief in their own worth. The next few months provide a series of road-calming measures that bring them back down to earth.

Mr Wagner's online financial information business MAID arrived as the hottest thing yet. The shares were floated in March 1990 at 110p. Within a couple of months, they were worth less than half that, and Mr Wagner was spitting blood. His advisers bore the brunt of his anger for their failure to ensure the share price reflected his view of the value of his company. He also accused his bigger competitors of

a conspiracy to break his company. So far, so unwise. He acquired a reputation as a troublesome 1980s-style yuppie whose business was destined for an ignominious collapse. How curious that he is now tending off rumours of takeover bids from those same big online rivals. In spite of mounting losses, his company has come of age. Customers are growing at an exponential rate, the 1,200 added in the first half doubling the subscriber base. Costs have risen to cope with this, but the first profits are due next year.

Three things can happen now. Those competitors can use their commercial clout to crush the upstart. They might or might not be successful — its product is better than much of the competition. They can try to buy the company, but the board has 40 per cent and will not come cheap. Or they can leave him to build the business further through strategic alliances. The shares were 271p last night, that price may be impossible to relate to any normal investment criterion, and their progress so far has been erratic.

But we probably need more people like Dan Wagner, who has put together a business from scratch without recourse to a series of financially-driven takeovers. And one or two people in the City owe him an apology.



Gareth Davies, left, and Bruce Ralph, chief executive, hope for better economic conditions to revive Glynwed

## Glynwed knocked by fall in metals prices

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

LOWER metals prices and difficult trading conditions at home and abroad hit first-half profits at Glynwed, the engineering group based in Birmingham.

The company reported pre-tax profits down 3.1 per cent to £40.2 million from £41.5 million a year ago.

Glynwed's shares slid 18p to 332p as analysts revised down their forecasts for the full year from around £94 million to £86 million.

The dividend for the six months ending June 29 is being maintained at 4.4p per ordinary share. It will be paid on December 4.

On top of the sharp fall in metals prices, a cut in capital

spending by British and German industrialists had a negative impact on Glynwed's industrial piping business. This was exacerbated by a fall in demand from the UK gas industry.

However, Glynwed's results were bolstered by an £8.3 million operating profit from the Victorian water pipes business it bought a year ago.

The stepped-up programme of pipe repairs and replacement of mains supply systems by the UK water industry, which looks set to continue, helped demand in that side of the business.

There was also some good news from the company's consumer products side,

which includes Aga-Rayburn cookers, where demand picked up. The growth in pub catering also helped commercial cooker sales.

Gareth Davies, chairman, said that the company was hoping for better economic conditions to revive its fortunes. "In the UK, consumer spending is rising and housing markets are becoming more active," he said. "Provided that the anticipated improvement in economic conditions materialises, we are confident of sound progress in the second half of the year."

Analysts stressed that a recovery depended on metal prices recovering and on growth, so far uncertain, in

industrial and consumer demand.

The group's turnover was £677.3 million, up 11.2 per cent from £609.2 million. Net earnings per share were down 16.9 per cent at 10.99p compared with 13.23p in the same period last year.

The company has restructured into three divisions: metals (processing and distribution); pipe systems; and consumer and construction products. Glynwed said the new structure should sharpen its focus. It is also continuing to look for opportunities to dispose of non-core businesses.

Tempus, page 26

### City Centre to expedite food outlets

CITY CENTRE Restaurants is accelerating its expansion programme in the next six months, aiming to open 34 new restaurants and converting eight established outlets to new brands (Alasdair Murray writes).

City Centre, best-known for its Deep Pan Pizza, Garfunkels and Nachos chains, yesterday unveiled a 2 per cent increase in half-year profits, to £6.4 million. Turnover increased by 18 per cent, to £61 million.

The company said profits were held back by heavy investment in new outlets, totalling £870,000. It has a policy of writing off all investment as it occurs.

The dividend was maintained at 0.45p, payable on October 11. Shares slipped 11p, to 117p, as analysts downgraded forecasts.

## Generator waiting game for Treasury

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Treasury has no immediate plans to unload its British Energy shares in spite of its commitment to a programme launched last year to sell off its debt and equity in privatised industries.

The Treasury has been held holding more than 12 per cent of the nuclear generator's shares after the company's flotation proved a disappointment and the shares plunged to a discount on the first day of trading. Now the Treasury will have to wait for the market to pick up before selling on the shares. A large sale now is likely to depress an already fragile price, which yesterday stood at 101.5p, only fractionally up on the 100p paid by private investors.

Last year the Treasury launched a scheme to sell its stakes in the privatised industries. It has since sold stakes

held in some regional electricity companies and water companies. However, it still has a scattering of interests across the privatised utilities, including 34 million shares in National Power and 22 million in PowerGen.

BZW, co-ordinator of British Energy's flotation, yesterday confirmed that banks in the sale syndicate would have to buy back some of the shares sold to institutions if those investment bodies sold before November 22.

The banks had agreed to underwrite sales to some institutions in order to secure share allocations. The arrangement, which will be policed by the Department of Trade and Industry, stabilises the price of British Energy, meaning that if institutions bale out of the shares, the banks will have to buy them back.

### Surprise for City from JRA

J ROTHSCILD Assurance Holdings (JRA), the life company founded in 1991 by Sir Mark Weinberg and Lord Rothschild, yesterday surprised the market with better than expected half-year results (Robert Miller writes).

New life and pensions business in the six months to June 30 jumped 64 per cent to £39.7 million, helping the insurer to a post-tax half-time profit of £4.1 million against £1 million last time. Sir Mark said: "The results are a positive indication that the bad position for the life industry appears to be in the past."

The group's Life Assurance Holding Corporation (LAHC), which acquires ailing or underperforming life offices, reported a £7.8 million pre-tax profit.

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## Tradepoint loses £5.6m

By FRASER NELSON

TRADEPOINT, the firm that broke the London Stock Exchange's monopoly on UK share trading last year, has so far failed to make a serious impact on the market.

The AIM-listed group said that its daily share of the UK equities market had yet to top 0.5 per cent. It still hopes its order-driven trading system will reach its break-even level of a 2 per cent share by the end of next year.

Tradepoint launched its trading system last September. Full-year results released

yesterday, covering the first six months of operation, showed a loss of £5.68 million. Michael Waller-Bridge, chief executive, said that 41 firms had now signed up. By automatically matching buyers and sellers, Tradepoint eliminates the need to pay market-makers commission.

Tradepoint's maiden sales were £77,700. Annual costs totalled £5.91 million, against £4.14 million last time. Its shares held to 130p yesterday, 45p below the price of the April placing.



Waller-Bridge "below par"

## Capital set on Net gain in AIM deal

By FRASER NELSON

CAPITAL & Western Estates, a property company listed on AIM, yesterday announced £14 million of deals that will see it acquire one of its quoted rivals and then turn itself into an Internet access provider.

Through a complex series of share transactions, C&W is buying fellow property minor Ballynatray, also on AIM, and the privately-owned Global Internet. The deals value Ballynatray at more than £8 million, and Global Internet at about £6 million.

Although C&W's management has no track record in Internet technology management, the company said it has been looking for an acquisition to escape from the moribund housing market. Global is owned and run by Jan Murray, who founded PC World, the computer chain sold to Dixons in 1993.

Shares in Ballynatray rose 1/2p, to 6 1/2p, yesterday, while C&W's shares were suspended at 2 1/2p. After a consolidation, shares in the new enlarged group are to return at 20p.

## Lloyds Chemists re-bid nearer

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

SKIRMISHING broke out in the Lloyds Chemists takeover battle yesterday, with Gehe of Germany saying it is close to fulfilling the requirements that will allow it to re-bid.

The DTI last month ruled that rival bids by Gehe and Unichem, which had been referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, could not go ahead unless

buyers could be identified for some of Lloyds's pharmaceutical wholesaling depots. Gehe has until October 18 to find buyers for seven depots, while Unichem must find buyers for six.

Karl-Gerhard Eick, chief financial officer of Gehe, said the company hopes within two to three weeks to present its list of buyers. Unichem said it remained hopeful of fulfilling the DTI conditions, but would

give no indication of when. Gehe yesterday reported a 48 per cent jump in operating profits to £24.5 million in the six months to June 30 at AAH, the UK pharmaceutical wholesaler it bought last year. Herr Eick said that Gehe is continuing to re-assess the value of Lloyds in the light of a profits warning in early July, but said: "Despite everything, we are still very interested in acquiring the business."







THE TIMES  
CITY DIARYIn the frame  
for a ticket

INDEPENDENT Insurance really ought to consider taking out one of its own special events insurance policies for the firm's next photo-shoot.

Posing next to a fleet of shiny new Metros, sponsored by Independent Insurance, Michael Bright, the chief executive, and Garth Ramsay, the chairman, looked just the picture for yesterday's interim results.

Then two zealous traffic wardens walked onto the scene, and no amount of cajolery could dissuade either of them from plastering parking tickets on two of the cars as well as the transporter that they arrived in.

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Will the Bundesbank finally  
abandon the monetarist ship?

Germany considers  
next week whether  
to cut interest  
rates. The decision  
has far-reaching  
consequences

Has the Bundesbank finally come to its senses? I had started to write an article about the dangers to the world economy from the growing possibility that the dollar's long-term upward trend might be temporarily reversed. Then suddenly yesterday morning the Bundesbank knocked away the major premise of my argument.

When Omar Issing, the Bundesbank chief economist, told the *International Herald Tribune* that "an appreciation of the D-mark does not fit into the current economic landscape", and added that the German economic recovery "is not yet robust", he was merely stating the obvious. But coming from Europe's most erratic economic institution, such elementary common sense inspired an amazing insight: perhaps, after all, the Bundesbank is not hell-bent on an irrational campaign of global sabotage and national self-destruction.

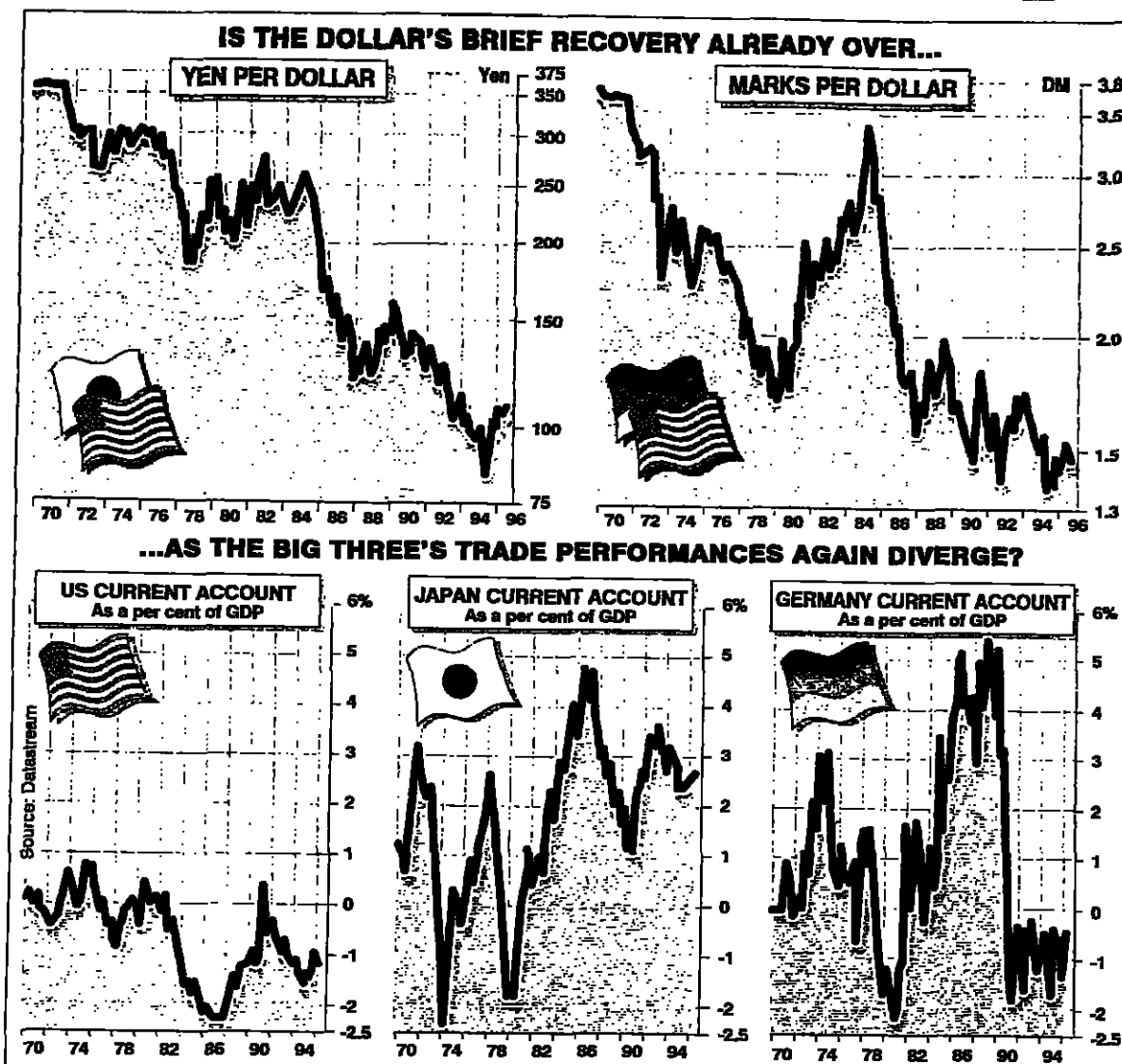
For months, if not years now, every rational observer of the global economy has agreed that Germany and the world both badly need lower German interest rates and a weaker mark. But the idea that the Bundesbank might finally have come to understand this self-evident truth was so astonishing that almost nobody I spoke to yesterday was willing to believe that Dr Issing really meant what he said. After all, Dr Issing himself told another paper only a few days earlier that the German economy was doing well, that a small cut in interest rates would not be beneficial and that the Bundesbank's policy would continue to be governed by the money supply.

The Bundesbank is the only central bank that still claims to operate by the monetarist theories discredited and abandoned in every other country. It is like the court of Pope Urban VIII, which continued to believe that the earth was flat after everybody else had realised it was round and revolved around the sun.

Given this difference in philosophical outlook, it is hardly surprising that the Bundesbank consistently does the opposite of what markets and other central bankers expect — and that so few people yesterday were willing to believe in the sincerity of Dr Issing's recantation.

The sceptics may well prove right, although I personally think it was significant that yesterday's statement came from Dr Issing rather than from Hans Tietmeyer, the Bundesbank President. Dr Issing has long been the main opponent of monetary easing, as well as the most convinced monetarist, on the Bundesbank council. He is generally believed to have been the leader of the hardline faction at last month's council meeting, which dissuaded Herr Tietmeyer from pressing for lower rates.

In addition, Dr Issing has repeatedly made it clear that he strongly opposes the plan to submerge the mark in a European Monetary Union. Thus a comment from him implying that he is having second thoughts about the tightness of German monetary policy and the strength of the mark, may actually carry more weight in the present conjuncture than a similar



remark from Herr Tietmeyer, who is known as an internationalist and an advocate of monetary union.

One way or another, we will know soon enough whether Dr Issing was serious. The Bundesbank's next council meeting is a week from today. If there is then no rate cut those who believe that Germany is living in a pre-Copernican world will have their fears confirmed.

The implications for Europe and the entire world economy will be dire. If, on the other hand, there is even a small rate cut, the world can heave a sigh of relief. Financial markets may focus again on fundamental values and the long-term changes in technology, demographics, fiscal policy and the structure of world trade are now more favourable to America than they are to Japan and Europe.

In addition, I believe there is a third strong reason for the dollar to keep rising in the long term. This is that European long-term investors such as pension funds (as opposed to short-term speculators) are extremely "short" of American equities and will eventually become buyers of dollars on an enormous scale. But since I have not met a single financial analyst who agrees, I shall not labour this point at the moment.

But whatever one thinks of these long-term arguments for a strong dollar, there is no denying the American currency is vulnerable in the short term. The dynamics of financial markets are such that even if speculators are "right" on economic grounds to buy dollars, they could decide to reverse their positions rapidly if the Bundesbank plays its cards wrongly. The danger of such a reversal is particularly clear today because the

improvement of the US trade deficit has temporarily stalled (largely, I suspect, because of the strength of demand in America and weak growth in Europe).

In fact, if the Bundesbank acts as foolishly next week as the Bank of Japan did last spring, Germany could suffer from a run into its currency every bit as disastrous as the one that hit Japan. The consequences would not, of course, be identical. Germany's banks would not suffer a financial meltdown (although I have heard reports from well-placed sources that many of the second-tier German banks could prove as vulnerable to a combination of recession and deregulation as the American savings and loans turned out to be 10 years ago). Instead Germany would be threatened by an industrial disaster, as its traditional manufacturing industries became completely uncompetitive in world markets.

To make matters much worse, the malignant hardening of the mark would quickly spread its cancerous effects to the rest of Europe. France would obviously be the first victim, unless President Chirac made good on the vague threats about cutting loose from the mark that have circulated in Paris in the past few days. And, in the unlikely event that President Chirac did have the good sense to sever the franc-mark link, this would strike a second massive blow against German exports.

One senior European central banker recently put it like this: if the mark strengthened and France abandoned the franc fort "a crisis for Europe would become a catastrophe for Germany". Will the Bundesbank risk triggering such a catastrophe? The world will find out next Thursday, but I shall be on holiday for two weeks in the west of Ireland. I will be back to survey the wreckage on September 5.

Perhaps the  
Bundesbank is  
not hell-bent  
on global  
sabotage?

## Putting on the Ritz to mark its 90th birthday

Morag Preston on changes that  
show how Barclays mean business

Out on the terrace that overlooks Green Park, the Ritz Hotel will celebrate its 90th birthday tonight. Only eleven months after the exclusive Barclay Brothers bought one of London's grandest hotels from Trafalgar House for £75 million, the Ritz will be showing off its multi-pound refurbishment to an increasingly corporate clientele.

Within months of the twin millionaires taking the Ritz into private ownership, a growing number of businessmen have made their way through the hotel's Arlington Street entrance. Long overshadowed by the Savoy, which boasts a doorway hidden from the main road, greater space, and is situated only a cab ride away from City, does this mean that with private funds and a managing director who worked for 15 years at its rival hotel, the Ritz will relaunch itself as a "business centre"? According to Tom O'Connell, general manager of the



Opulent Louis XVI decor greets visitors to the Ritz

Ritz, who has been much involved in the transformation of the hotel back to its original Louis XVI splendour: "Since Giles Shepard has been here and the hotel has been in the hands of its present owners, people have been reminded of the Ritz as a venue. The Barclay Brothers are known and respected in the City. Those at the decision-making level in companies are swayed by that level of private ownership."

KPMG, SG Warburg, Ernst & Young, Salomon Brothers, and Sedgwick, are among the companies that make frequent use of the Ritz. Midway between home in West London and work in the City, the hotel is an increasingly popular haunt for business breakfasts and presentations for up to 30 people are held twice a week on average over lunch and dinner in the hotel's Marie Antoinette Room. Overhead projectors, computers, and faxes are also available — but only on demand. "We will

never be a high profile business hotel," says Mr O'Connell, adding that only 40 per cent of the hotel's guests are there on company work compared with 65 per cent at the Savoy. "We are never going to be a fax/mobile phone environment. — other hotels in London do that much better than us. What we want to offer people is a respite from the business world, and there is clearly a market for the Ritz away from that."

A similar sentiment is echoed by Mr Shepard, managing director at the Ritz since December 1995, who was shown the door at the Savoy after leading a 13-year campaign against Sir Kocco Forte, and was once quoted as saying that he did not wish to see Savoy Hotels in the "hands of a vast combine which, among other things, runs service stations on the main arterial roads."

According to Mr Shepard, who has masterminded the installation of new air-conditioning and windows at the Ritz, and who intends to turn the hotel's shops into a bar area: "We would never want it to be more than a 50/50 split between business and leisure. We prefer to have small corporate parties because we can't handle big ones. There is no point kicking against the size and shape of the building."

Meanwhile, at the Savoy, where Denis Thatcher enjoys his favourite fish cakes and Jeffrey Archer had a vegetarian sausage named after him, refurbishment is also taking place. It ought to be finished by autumn, around the same time as the Ritz's restoration programme, but that is where the similarities end. Improv-

ing business and conference facilities is an important part of the changes at the Savoy, where telephone, computer, fax and conference facilities have all been improved, and guests will soon be able to video conference from their room.

The banqueting department at the Savoy hosts around six functions of various kinds on average every week. This does not, however, include those meetings that take place in the hotel's seven private rooms that are available for hire. In the bedrooms of the Savoy, no attempt is made to disguise the business facilities available,

whereas the Ritz, the first London hotel to have a telephone in every room, makes every effort so that bedroom suites "should not look like an office."

Michael Twomey, 66, master of ceremonies at the Ritz, who is celebrating his 46th year with the hotel, has witnessed most of the changes among corporate clientele. "Company business used to be much more leisurely. People would come in for lunch, and wouldn't leave until four." Much less meat is eaten now, and sparkling water has replaced the brandy at the end of a long lunch, he says.

Banking on  
the desired  
outcome for  
Irish TSB

Eileen McCabe looks at the prospects  
for the sale of the state-run institution

The promised radical overhaul of the Irish Republic's state banking sector has now been whittled down to one issue. How can Ruairi Quinn, Ireland's Finance Minister, sell the Trustee Savings Bank (TSB) to the National Australia Bank when Ulster Bank, a NatWest Bank subsidiary, is probably prepared to pay a higher price?

The lengthy process of reports, committees and negotiations on the future of three banks — the TSB, the Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) and the Industrial Credit Corporation (ICC) — will end at the Cabinet meeting on September 4. The role of the state banking sector was thrust into the spotlight two years ago when the National Australia Bank and the Ulster Bank both made offers of more than £100 million for TSB.

Mr Quinn, a Labour Party member, was widely believed to want to engineer the disposal of the three banks in such a way that the state would continue to exercise some influence over developments, particularly in relation to banking access

for the low-paid and those on social welfare. However, it now appears that political expediency has won the day, with the more conservative partner in the three-party government coalition, Fine Gael, likely to have baulked at the idea of serious intervention in the sector.

According to well-placed sources, Mr Quinn is now likely to suggest that only the TSB should be sold and the proceeds used to inject much-needed capital into the state-owned ACC and the ICC. He will also keep his own party and his Democratic Left colleagues happy by setting up a banking commission to examine the provision of quality banking services to welfare recipients and those on low pay.

The recapitalisation suggestion will ruffle few feathers because both the ICC and the ACC will remain small players with a combined market share of between 3 and 4 per cent. They are specialist institutions set up to provide funding for

industry and agriculture, and are profit-makers. Both have managed to carve out a distinctive niche in the market.

The real dilemma for Mr Quinn is who should be allowed to buy the TSB. Although the proceeds from the sale goes to the Exchequer, the TSB, unlike the ACC and the ICC, is run by a board of independent trustees. They have said they want to be taken over by the National Australia Bank because they believe that the TSB's 70 countrywide outlets would fuse well with the similar-sized operations of the National Irish Bank (NIB), the Australian bank's Irish subsidiary.

Fortunately for them, the Minister for Finance is prepared to give his blessing to that marriage, but for very different reasons. Sources say the minister is convinced that if the National Australia Bank is not given an opportunity to more than double its 2 to 3 per cent market share in the Republic by acquiring TSB, it will simply lose interest and pull out altogether. From Mr Quinn's point of view, that would be undesirable. It would probably allow the Ulster Bank, which currently has a market share of almost 7 per cent, to mop up both the TSB and the NIB. Instead of having a vibrant sector with two giants — Allied Irish Bank and Bank of Ireland — sniping at each other over their combined market share of anywhere 80 to 87 per cent and two medium-sized players — the Ulster bank and the combined TSB/NIB — jockeying for position, Irish banking would have only three key players.

However, Mr Quinn will have to perform some deft footwork to get the outcome he favours because the Ulster Bank has made it known that it is prepared to top any offer from the National Australia Bank. And the whole decision-making process has taken so long that two other hungry contenders — the Irish Nationwide Building Society and the Irish Permanent bank — are believed to have joined the purchase queue.

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Ruairi Quinn is expected to set up a banking commission

## GROUPE PARIBAS

Public tender offer of Groupe Paribas  
for Compagnie Financière Ottomane

Groupe Paribas announces that following its public offer to purchase the entire share capital and all founder's shares of Compagnie Financière Ottomane S.A., it held 96% of the company's capital and 95% of its founder's shares.



## Game is over for Nintendo genius

FROM ROBERT WHYMAN IN TOKYO

THE creator of Game Boy, Nintendo's popular video game, is to quit the company.

The departure of Gunpei Yokoi, 55, who headed the team that developed the world's best-selling hand-held 16-bit game machine, follows industry reports that sluggish sales would have an adverse impact on Nintendo's profits.

The company's shares were suspended in Tokyo yesterday as the company sought to allay fears that its sales had been affected by price-cutting by rivals and by the lack of attractive software.

Mr Yokoi, who is to become a consultant, is being blamed for sluggish sales of Virtual Boy, the 32-bit game machine, which he helped to develop to succeed Game Boy.

Nintendo officially denied reports that sluggish sales would reduce its half-year profits by 70 per cent, and said its new 64-bit game machine is selling well in both Japan and the United States.

Earlier in the day Nintendo shares came under heavy selling on the Tokyo and Osaka stock exchanges after newspaper stories predicted a sharp fall in its unconsolidated pre-tax profit.

Both exchanges suspended trading in Nintendo shares in the afternoon session. There have been persistent industry rumours that Nintendo 64 sales have been badly hit by a lack of attractive software and by Sony cutting the price of its 32-bit PlayStation.

Nintendo holds nearly half the Japanese games market, but is up against aggressive competition from the Sony Playstation and Sega Enterprises' Saturn.

At a hastily organised press conference Hiroshi Imanishi, Nintendo director, said the company expects to meet its sales forecast for the new machines in the current fiscal year.



Fully covered: Michael Bright, left, chief executive, and Garth Ramsay, chairman, with one of the cars insured by Independent

## Independent Insurance sets sights on more acquisitions

By ROBERT MILLER

INDEPENDENT Insurance, the insurer that operates only through brokers, has beefed up its acquisitions team after unveiling a 15 per cent increase in half-year profits, to £16.7 million.

The acquisitive insurer is seeking further deals after last December's purchase of La Palatine, a French company.

Michael Bright, chief executive, said yesterday: "We are

actively looking for suitable companies to buy and we expect to pay for these using existing resources, rather than calling on our shareholders. We have drafted in both external and internal people to look at suitable acquisitions, both in Britain and in France."

Mr Bright added: "In my previous statement I referred to the irresponsible actions of others and the inevitable casu-

alties that would result. The withdrawals and consolidations taking place within the industry continue to be a rich source of opportunity for us."

Investment income, including La Palatine's contribution, rose by a substantial 87 per cent, to £15.5 million, while gross written premiums were up 12 per cent, to £232.7 million, in the six months to June 30, against £207.1 million

in the same period last year. Earnings per share, excluding realised investment gains, increased to 23.6p, from 21.5p last time. La Palatine made an underwriting loss of £3.5 million but is expected to break even by the end of the year.

Independent rewarded shareholders by lifting the half-time dividend to 5.3p, payable on October 31, up from 4.6p. Shareholder funds rose to £150.9

million, from £98.9 million. Within the Independent Insurance portfolio, commercial property produced gross written premiums of £36.3 million, against £47.7 million last time. This led to an underwriting loss of £1.6 million, compared with a £2.6 million profit. The IRA bomb in Manchester cost Independent £1 million net of reinsurance.

On the home front, and in spite of adverse weather claims, the group still delivered an underwriting profit of £200,000, albeit well down on last year's £2.3 million contribution. In motor business, Independent Insurance saw gross written premium fall by 14 per cent, to £13.9 million, against £16.1 million last time.

In the international division gross written premium was £17.2 million, with an underwriting loss of £3 million, compared with a previous profit of £200,000.

The market marked the share up 10p, to close at 500p.

Diary, page 27

## Hoechst doubles in first half

FROM REUTER IN FRANKFURT

HOECHST, the German chemicals and drugs group, more than doubled pre-tax profits to DM4.3 billion in the first half of 1996, and forecast annual profit would rise by at least 30 per cent.

Latest profits were enhanced by a net extraordinary gain of DM2.1 billion, of which DM1.8 billion stemmed from disposals. Op-

erating profits rose 18 per cent on a comparable basis.

Sales in the first six months slipped nearly 1 per cent, to DM26.1 billion. Sales volume increased 3 per cent but prices fell 3 per cent, the group said.

Hoechst shares, among the most heavily traded issues in Frankfurt, slipped five pfennigs to DM51.25 on profit-taking on the news, after the

market had pushed shares higher in anticipation of strong results.

The pre-tax profit figure was well above analysts' forecasts, which had ranged from DM2.56 billion to DM2.75 billion.

Hoechst is the second of Germany's so-called three chemical giants to post its results. Bayer reported its

numbers on Monday and BASF will report its results on August 22.

Klaus Schmieder, chief financial officer, forecast that 1996 pre-tax and operating profit would be at least 30 per cent higher than in 1995.

Hoechst said that it had no plans for more significant asset sales in the second half of this year.

## ACCOUNTANCY

## Respect for the tried and tested

Rod Hill and John Everett report how a survey of finance directors reassures, yet prompts concern

NEVER let it be said that finance directors do not have a sense of fun. It has just surfaced briefly in the 1996 financial management survey conducted by the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) and Deloitte & Touche Consulting Group.

More than half of the 561 finance directors in leading British companies who were approached (actually 54 per cent of them) were prepared to go along with the notion that their financial books will be in "real time" by the year 2000. However, it is clear that even the questioners suspected they were having their legs pulled by the replies. "Can the accountants' dream of closing the books at the touch of a button really be that close?" the survey editors ponder.

Press-button accounting and time for golf every afternoon may still be some distance ahead for finance directors. Meanwhile, the new survey, which covers companies with a combined turnover exceeding £75 billion and employing more than 500,000 people, is candid and revealing. Indeed, it manages to achieve the opposites of being both reassuring and worrying about aspects of the current state of UK financial manage-

ment. On the credit side of the ledger, it emphasises that businesses are using sound financial management better and more effectively than at any time in the past. Businesses are measuring the right things to bring about the better functioning of the enterprise. Finance directors are generally satisfied that their departments are working properly. And there is a high level of agreement on how things will change in the future.

An overwhelming 91 per cent of the finance directors surveyed believe that their finance function adds value to their business, prompting the report's conclusion: "There is clearly a lot of good feeling." We do wonder, in passing, whether the 9 per cent who disagreed with the proposition might be well advised to take up another line of work.

On the debit side of the ledger the survey suggests an inclination to stick to the tried and tested rather than embrace new ideas. The editors acknowledge that "the levels of awareness of financial management tools and techniques were low... where the techniques had been used they had not been as successful as might have been expected". This comes as no surprise to



Rod Hill, left, and John Everett. No need for golf lessons yet

CIMA, which has continued to put considerable effort into training in, and awareness of, the latest management tools and techniques for financial managers.

Paul Fuller, one of the survey editors and a partner at Deloitte & Touche Consulting Group, finds it disappointing that only 13 per cent of finance directors understand value

management, only 24 per cent understand business process re-engineering, and only 42 per cent understand activity-based management. He suggests that those weaknesses may point to the reason (as the survey also shows) less than 25 per cent of financial management projects achieve their targets.

When it comes to measuring

organisational performance, profit is by far the most widely used measure among finance directors. It is followed by cashflow and turnover. Share price-related measures are the least widely used. More than 90 per cent of the respondents rated profit as the prime measure of performance, compared with 72 per cent supporting quality measures, 73 per cent sales volume and working capital, and 80 per cent customer service levels.

Looking to the future, more than 70 per cent of the finance directors surveyed believe that there will be stronger pressures to reduce finance costs, to automate basic accounting systems, and to move towards fully integrated total business systems such as Oracle and SAP. However, only 30 per cent believe that the use of appropriate systems will bring about reductions in the staffing of financial departments.

The implication is that finance department empires will be heavily defended against cutbacks planned in the name of automation. No need to book the golf lessons yet!

Rod Hill is president of CIMA, and John Everett is managing partner at Deloitte & Touche Consulting Group. Financial Management Survey 1996: The current state of financial management in UK PLCs, published by CIMA and the Deloitte & Touche Consulting Group, is available from CIMA Publishing on 0171-917 9229.

## Blowing the whistle on a big-money game

FOOTBALL is a desperately limited game. Who would invent a game in which the ball is propelled around a pitch by the bluntest of blunt instruments — the feet and the head? It is no wonder that the skills employed are so much less complex and sophisticated compared with most other sports. And it is small wonder that the actual games themselves are more likely to be stunningly dull than wonderfully exciting. But that, as football fans know, is not the point.

Fans go for the passion of the crowds, not the game. It is, as a friend pointed out, the only place left where people can feel part of some roaring tribal gathering.

This odd disconnection between the sport and the reason its supporters turn up is reflected in the way the game has developed. At this point of the footballing year it has become a tradition that Gerry Boon, Deloitte & Touche's expert on the subject, sends his firm's annual review of football finance down the tunnel and out onto the pitch. As ever, this year's edition shows what a bizarre sport football is.

The cash from people turning up to watch the games continued to slide as a percentage of the sport's total income. It is now down to 42 per cent. Wages and salaries continued to spiral upwards and now absorb 52 per cent of the game's total income. Overall the game made a pre-tax loss of £14.1 million on a total income of £468 million. As Boon himself will tell you, football is full of paradoxes. The biggest is the gap between the Premiership clubs and the rest. "It used to be a gap," says Boon. "This year it's a gulf. Next year it will be a yawning chasm."

He is right. Manchester United and Newcastle United together have a greater turnover than the whole of Division One. The average operating profit for a Premiership club was £2.24 million. The other divisions have only operating losses. In Division One the average operating loss was £703,000. And the top clubs have scooped the income 69 per cent of the income goes to Premiership clubs.

So football has a problem. The product, the actual games themselves, do not produce significant income. But, as Boon would argue, without the product you will not sell the shirts, keep the television people interested or bring in the sponsorship.

Take the example of the champions. Manchester United's turnover, says the report, rose 38 per cent with increases in all business areas but boosted by a huge leap in merchandising and other sales to £23.5 million — an increase of 65 per cent, and a 71 per cent increase in television revenue to £6.8 million. As for the actual football itself, gate receipts rose a relatively modest 10 per cent.

It needs a marketing expert to fathom out the future. At present, football, to put it at its simplest, is buoyed by sales of fancy shirts at mammoth mark-ups. It is very hard for anyone to predict how long that can carry on. The sector the clubs are selling to is cash-rich but relatively unsophisticated.

It is against this background that football clubs are now being lured into the idea of going for a listing. "It is our view," says Deloitte & Touche, "that by the year 2000, there are likely to be 12 or 15 football clubs which have a listing on either the main Stock Exchange or the Alternative Investment Market. There are a limited number of clubs that will qualify for such a position in our view."

The report does not say how many are fit for listing, but Boon will happily tell you, without naming any names of course, that four is the number that comes to mind. "There is," he says, "more institutional interest chasing a small amount of sensible stock."

So the bright new future of football clubs listed on a serious stock market is also likely to end in tears for most investors and clubs. One of the Deloitte & Touche report's criteria for a successful listing is "the ability, and willingness, to deal with the 'glare of publicity' that arises from being a public company in addition to that which normally attaches to football". Given the game's track record in such abilities, the future of the business end of the game is far from bright.

Even with the money which pours in from the merchandising and the television rights, the game, according to Boon, "is not building a platform for the future. All it has done is just about squared it for the future". When you look at football from the financial angle, nothing makes sense.

Boon says: "It is a big-money game. But that passion has not been converted into enterprises whose turnovers rocket ahead of profits. Ending in tears is the least of it."



ROBERT BRUCE

## Music to their ears

CHANTREY VELLACOTT appears to have a bit of a coup on his hands.

Jerome Walton, the accountant whose famous clients in the music business include Pink Floyd and the Rolling Stones, has decided that the independent life is no longer right for him. He has just joined Chantrey Vellacott as a partner. It is, as jazz musi-

cians would point out, nice work if you can get it. And with the Rolling Stones it has the added benefit in the fees.

As Chris Sandford pointed out in his classic biography of Mick Jagger, the Rolling Stones lead singer: "He had a morbid fear of losing all his money." Accountants have been hard at work reassuring him ever since.

## Circuit judge

IF YOU do not know your non-ACMP-adequate collateral from your duration-based approach, then you could be in trouble. But help is at hand. Coopers & Lybrand has produced an extraordinary wall chart that looks more like a circuit diagram for a complex telecoms system than the

"financial jungle briefing" that it says it is. For Investment Services Directive firms it provides a guide to how to comply with the SFA's capital adequacy rules. To get your copy, contact Paul Sanders on 0171 212 5279.

## Counted out

DELEGATES to next month's

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**FILM 1**  
Heavy guilt, heavy drama, as Jack Nicholson stars in Sean Penn's *The Crossing Guard*



**FILM 2**  
... while a deglamourised Sharon Stone goes onto *Death Row* in the limp *Last Dance*

## THE TIMES ARTS



**FILM 3**  
Johnny Depp is the unwilling assassin in the passable but unexceptional *Nick of Time*



**FILM 4**  
The short but powerful *Hunger Artist* reveals British director Bernard Rudden as a name to watch

**CINEMA: Geoff Brown watches a star's second celluloid creation sink under the weight of its own portentousness**

# Penn portrait shaded with a heavy hand

Reviewing *The Indian Runner*, Sean Penn's first film as a writer and director, I expressed the hope that he might have "washed the indulgent gloom from his system" when he came to make film number two. Fat chance. Look at *The Crossing Guard*. Freddy, a divorced jeweller who fritters away his nights in topless bars, announces his intention to avenge himself on John Booth, the drunk driver who killed his seven-year-old daughter. Booth, just released from prison, carries his own mental burden, so much so that he frightens away friends. "I think your guilt is a little too much competition for me," says Jolo the painter, a sensitive flower. "You should let me know when you want life." Heavy thoughts. Heavy words. Heavy film.

Yet even supposing you could actually lift it, no one should toss this film aside. Where most actors who turn directors strut like peacocks or muscle in on the big-budget action genre, Sean Penn uses his new power to stay off-screen and make modern-day Greek tragedies with limited box-office appeal. In this arena he may not be a match for his obvious mentor, John Cassavetes, but his ambitions still deserve respect.

And if Penn's ambitions often exceed his talent, he knows how to draw on the talents of others. Jack Nicholson is the jeweller and David Morse his intended victim, while Anjelica Huston eerily shadows her own past relationship with Nicholson, playing his ex-wife and sparring partner. With such a cast, how can you not keep watching?

Nicholson and Huston's scenes together are few, but they raise the temperature in a film that sadly grows ever more lugubrious as characters consume themselves with guilt or hate. Humour bubbles up when Nicholson's demons (and eyebrows) start ascending and he lets fly at an irate customer returning a ring. Later, unintended laughter creeps in when our Jack, scarcely in prime condition, is chased interminably over streets, fences and gardens: a sequence that suggests Penn's forte will never be choreographing action.

For this film to work we need

**The Crossing Guard**  
Curzon West End, 15, 115 mins  
Portentous family drama from Sean Penn

**Last Dance**  
Odeon Haymarket 18, 105 mins  
What's Sharon Stone doing on *Death Row*?

**Nick of Time**  
National Film Theatre 89 mins  
Why must Johnny Depp kill the Governor of California?

**Hunger Artist**  
ICA Cinematheque, 65 mins  
Promising British director leaves a calling card

more chinks of light to penetrate the portentous gloom, and more signs of control from a director who means well but is apt to jump on any passing stylistic trick. Slow-motion photography, for instance. We scarcely need such underlining to remind us that some piece of action is meaningful. In *The Crossing Guard*, for better or worse, everything is meaningful.

*Last Dance* also intends to be taken seriously. Look at its star, Sharon Stone. Coarse, reddish hair. A scar on her neck. A tattoo on her right hand. And an unflinching prison uniform. She is on *Death Row* in some unspecified southern state, a piece of white trash facing death by lethal syringe for a double murder committed 12 years ago. Like Sean Penn's character in *Dead Man Walking*, her guilt is never in question — but that does not stop Rob Morrow, the rookie lawyer at the state Clemency Board, from turning her case into a crusade. The trouble is, after Tim Robbins's powerful film, who wants to see "Dead Woman Walking", especially when she limps?

Not that the film's weakness is Stone's fault. The fictitious role of convicted killer Cindy Liggett may not stretch her talents as much as the drunken Las Vegas wife in *Casino*. Yet she does the job honestly enough, and neatly gauges the shifts in attitude from

the hard nut longing for death to the improved character who learns to touch and feel, and to draw the Taj Mahal. But we still end up not caring two figs whether Cindy meets her Maker.

For all its jousting with life and death, *Last Dance* is weirdly perfunctory. Bruce Beresford, the film's wayward director, is still searching for something to top *Driving Miss Daisy*: he gets the scenes shot but does nothing to lift them out of the ordinary. Ron Koslow's script can be sharp enough in peripheral scenes: there is an amusing encounter with a bumptious black killer turned author on *Death Row* ("How they gonna kill a man who's been on the *New York Times* bestseller list?"). But when it matters most, the words turn flat and painful emotions get wrapped in tinsel.

Rob Morrow, most familiar from the television series *Northern Exposure*, does not help as the rookie lawyer trying to make amends for his cushioned life by doing something good. He looks cute but acts bland. You never feel the fire in his belly. Sharon Stone fans will doubtless be curious to see their idol deglamourised; the rest of us can safely pass this last dance by.

Stargazers may get another surprise watching *Nick of Time*. Johnny Depp usually plays characters with long hair, a yen for cross-dressing and scissors for hands. But here he is the ordinary Joe caught in an extraordinary situation. Collar and tie. Meek little specs. Hair that behaves.

Arriving with his daughter at Union Station, Los Angeles, he is yanked aside by Christopher Walken, and given a gun and an impossible choice. Within 80 minutes he must kill the Governor of California, headquartered at a downtown hotel during a re-election campaign. If he fails, his kidnapped daughter will die. And if he shoots too soon, the film will die for what can you fill the time with except suspense, plot twists and endless mutterings over walkie-talkies?

Forty years ago, this would have made a crisp little B-movie. The surprise is that such a modest



He may look a charmer, but Jack Nicholson is a man consumed by bitterness and the desire for revenge in *The Crossing Guard*

venture emerges now under the auspices of John Badham, a director known for overblown nonsense such as *Bird on a Wire*. As underblown nonsense, *Nick of Time* remains a passable time-waster, although our interest might be raised a notch if the script gave us a hint of why California's Governor (Marsha Mason) deserved to die. And we might be even happier if the movie were not playing at the National Film Theatre, which has better things to do than serve as a dumping-ground for American flops soon to appear on video.

But enough of soft-drink cinema, you may say: where can I find the hard stuff? Since this is high summer, you have to look carefully. Up in Scotland, the *Drambuie* Edinburgh International Festival is now under way, offering everything from Peter Greenaway and music videos to *The Goat Horn*, the hottest Bulgarian film of the 1970s (a full report follows next week). Down in London, after

breaking records at the Riverside Studios, Renoir's wonderful classic *La Règle du Jeu* begins a two-week run at the Screen on the Hill.

Then at the ICA Cinematheque, the most dedicated followers of cinema's muse should find nourishment with Bernard Rudden's *Hunger Artist*, one of the most remarkable British films to emerge last year. Two other British shorts, Alnoor Dewshi's *Anton & Minny* and Nick Gordon-Smith's *Fatima*, complete the ICA's programme.

*Hunger Artist* lasts 45 minutes but Rudden makes every second count as he blends razor-sharp black-and-white imagery with provocative commentary in a story inspired by Kafka. Britain's last fasting artist has been kidnapped by crooks from his cage at the local zoo. A woman journalist pursues the trail through a bleak urban landscape, raising sensitive issues of poverty and greed. Rising up in a surfer of so much flaccid image-making, the film's intensity is staggering.

## 'Explosion of genius'

Every week, young film fans discuss the latest releases...

**THE CROSSING GUARD**  
Nicki Thomas, 22: Some nice directorial touches in a film that boasts fine acting and creative use of camera.

Abi Naish, 21: At last, an explosion of genius. Turning Hollywood stereotypes on their heads, this film is incredibly refreshing.

Bea Taylor, 21: One of the most invigorating, cathartic films I have ever seen. This film dances with life.

Derek Griffin, 18: Good acting and a storyline which is easy to follow.

**LAST DANCE**  
Nicki: Clichéd Hollywood slush that is predictable and tiresome. No Oscar nominations here. Abi: This fulfils the requirements of every Hollywood movie, while



destroying the real issues in an alarming cascade of tasteless clichés. A great disappointment for a film with great potential. Bea: Beresford's film continues to portray our banal view of life on *Death Row* with a sentimentality that can only be called kitsch. Derek: A very emotional film with a few sarcastic comments and gestures where needed, to even out those tear-jerking moments.

# Old China reflected in new steel

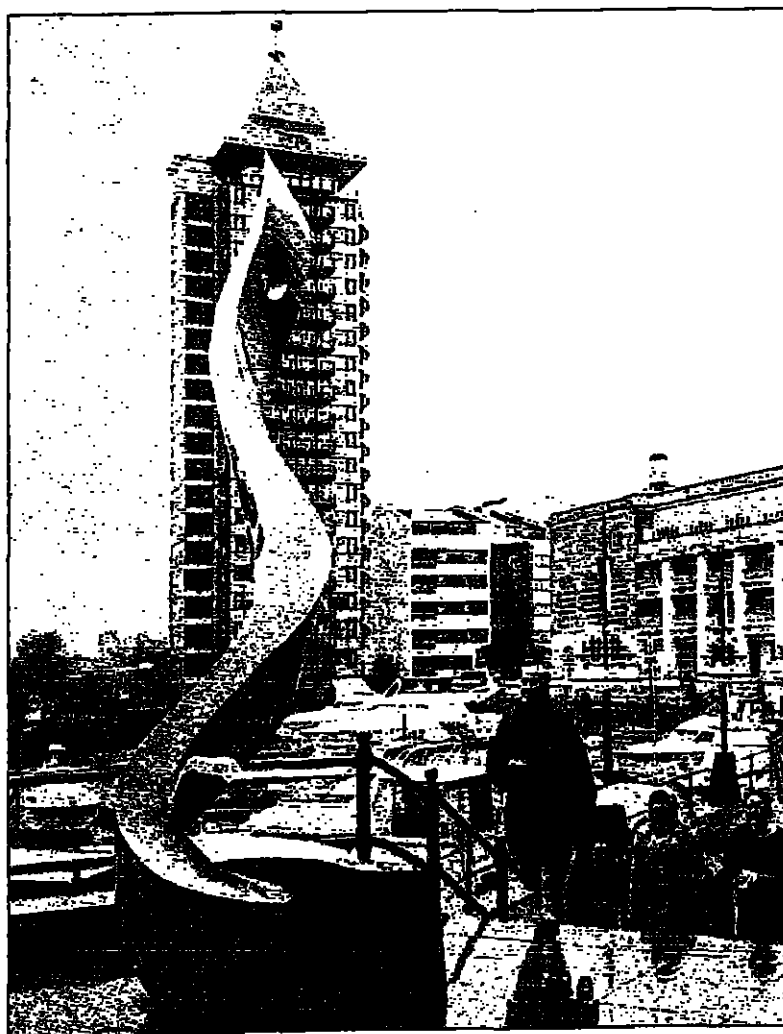
John Parry views the metal sculptures by Yuyu Yang that currently dominate Chelsea Harbour

His work is inspired and startling. He has exhibited in France, Italy, America, Brazil, Hong Kong and Japan. In recent decades he has been among the most innovative and prolific Chinese sculptors and one of the few to have found an audience in the West. But for whatever reasons, his work has never been to Britain before. So for the Royal Society of British Sculptors to choose the 70-year-old Chinese artist Yuyu Yang as its first International Fellow both acknowledges the sculptor's stature and provides us with an opportunity to see his work here for the first time.

Chelsea Harbour may be an architectural hotchpotch itself, but it provides an effective outdoor setting for some very dramatic and original pieces — a dozen works, three in bronze and nine more startlingly in stainless steel, brilliantly polished and reflecting everything around them.

While Yang admits to the profound influence of European sculptors such as Rodin and Giacometti, his art is rooted firmly in ancient Chinese culture. He calls his current series *Landscape*. It is filled with symbolic images of the dragon and the phoenix, the earth, moon, sun and universe, and especially of Buddha, for he is a devout Buddhist. He describes *Landscape*, developed over 20 years as "the bridge between us. It embodies all my that connects us. It concerns the form of beauty, which concerns in the form of beauty, which is the most precious gift I can offer. It symbolises my wish for a life of happiness and contentment."

The moment you enter the bleak approach to the Chelsea Harbour complex, the first of Yang's works is a signal that there is great drama afoot. *Mountain Grandeur*, a bronze monolith standing six metres high in lonely



Yuyu Yang and *Solar Permanence*: positioned against the backdrop of the main Chelsea Harbour tower, it shines in the sun or the night lights

splendour, has been described as the ultimate piece of romantic Chinese sculpture. Almost threatening in its sheer bulk, it is also a fine example of how the artist uses his love of nature. Yang was born in Taiwan but educated in China, Japan and Italy. When he returned to Rome to Taiwan in 1966 he settled in the Taroko National Park region with its spectacular limestone gorge. *Mountain Grandeur*, created ten years later, is a

reflection of his experiences then.

But whatever impact that may have on you, it does not prepare you for the sinuous and elegant charm of a stainless steel work such as *Solar Permanence*. Carefully positioned to have a backdrop of the main Chelsea Harbour tower, it writhes and twists upwards, four metres high, shining in the sun or the night lights. It is a dragon, the symbolic representation of the sun, and the creature's hollow eye

is a neat metaphor for the solar disc.

Yang uses steel to even greater effect with *Lunar Brilliance*. This mirrored disc is an inversion of the traditional Moon-gate of the Chinese garden. Instead of the gate being an illusion opening into a different world, this is an illusion reflecting everything around it: boats, water, fairs, sky.

The gentle humour becomes whimsy in another work called *Dragon's Song* in which more writhing tape of the shining steel dragon juggles a disc of the sun between its head and tail. Meanwhile, tucked away in a cobbled corner, is *Universe and Life*: a classic Yang piece in which the curves, columns and discs represent a galactic city inhabited not by people but by stars.

Philomena Davidson Davis, of the Sculpture Company (the commercial arm of the RSBS), says: "Western lovers of sculpture will have to take their time to get to know the work. It is sculpture of great integrity. Other Chinese sculptors have found it difficult to break through into the Western market. Yuyu Yang was a natural choice as our first International Fellow, representing the largest living civilisation, its history, growth and culture."

Examples of Yang's works are all over Taiwan: in banks, offices, hotels, golf courses and universities as well as his own Landscape Museum in the capital Taipei. Among Chinese sculptors using steel he is the undisputed pioneer. He started using it as early as 1961. Why?

"I strive for simplicity and purity," he says. "Stainless steel is the perfect material. It captures its surroundings in reflection and incorporates the world into it. Art and the environment merge instead of competing. But what impresses me most about stainless steel is that it has inherited, as it were, the exquisite brightness of china wares of the Sung dynasty."

Yang's sculpture is on display in Chelsea Harbour (London SW10) until November. His pieces are for sale but they do not come cheaply. Prices range from £66,000 to more than £400,000. Perhaps exhibition sponsors such as P&O or the Chinese-language satellite channel CNE will be tempted.

SHARON STONE

Sometimes justice is a crime.

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■ EDINBURGH

The artistry of Miranda Richardson can do little to redeem an inert staging of *Orlando*



■ EDINBURGH

... but the Mark Morris Dance Group returns with a fine mixed programme

THE TIMES  
ARTS



■ PROMS

Esa-Pekka Salonen conducts the Philharmonia as Barry Tuckwell plays his swansong on the horn



■ TOMORROW

Barely a teenager, the remarkable LeAnn Rimes has taken the country-music world by storm

# Bland backcloth for a gender bender

**THEATRE: Benedict Nightingale on Miranda Richardson in Woolf's *Orlando* at the Lyceum**

What was the physical appearance of the Elsinore that Robert Lepage had created for his one-man play of the same name? Visitors to the Edinburgh Festival will never know, for the show was finally aborted late on Tuesday, victim of someone's inability to transpose a working set to the King's Theatre stage. But rumour suggests that Claudius's palace was a sort of sci-fi amusement arcade with computers, holograms, strobe lights and, for all I know, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern flying in from Wittenberg by saucer.

At all events, it was clearly a lot more elaborate than the set which the American avant-garde artist Robert Wilson has designed for his filleted version of Virginia Woolf's *Orlando*. It was also, I suspect, a lot more visually exciting. There were many times at the Lyceum when I felt that if I shut my eyes and simply listened to Miranda Richardson reciting Woolf's tale of androgyny in high places, I would not be missing anything important. Indeed, there were moments when my eyes were shut for me, because the stage lights were turned off and that cool, musical voice went punctiliously on, describing yet another event in the 400-year-old life of the Elizabethan nobleman who became a woman in the 17th century and was never again sure that gender was a straightforward matter.

Certainly, Wilson's set has



EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

little to do with what Richardson is trying to bring verbally to life. She tells of gaudy balloons and multicoloured flames on the frozen Thames, of exotic horsemen and women with six-foot-high wigs in Constantinople. Yet what we see is a rectangular backcloth which sometimes shrinks in size and changes in hue from white to blue, and the occasional dubiously relevant piece of furniture: a chest of drawers shaped like steps, a table with glass sea horses for supports, a tiny model door that opens and shuts, and what appear to be giant shower-curtains. Still, Richardson is always on stage, and she looks as good as she sounds. Until 18th-century fashion allows it to flutter a bit, her flame-coloured hair is swept right back, leaving her pale, chiselled face exposed to the cheekbones and beyond. The effect is severe yet sensual, as if a Botticelli angel had been crossed with one of those stark loners you find in Beckett's late plays. But she is isolated on the stage for more than two hours, and that is a

long time to spend staring at the finest portrait.

This is a portrait which moves, of course. Dressed now in blue doublet and hose, now in billowing bloomers, now in a long pink dress, she walks forwards, walks backwards, undulates, falls to the floor, rolls around, lies down, crawls on her knees, glides, skitters and more, much more. But her movements are often as little related to what she says as her intonations are to what she feels.

She does not howl when she tells us she howls, or scream when you expect her to scream. And nothing seems to exercise her more than the fact that Queen Victoria wore lots of crinolines to conceal her pregnancy.

Well, all right, there is some reason for that. It tells you why Woolf wrote the novel and, presumably, why Wilson adapted it. Gender determines your social role without necessarily taking your identity along with it. It is not easy for a woman to fight a duel or for a man to dance naked, although Richardson's *Orlando* managed it in the 18th century — or rather, tells us that she did.

And there's the trouble. If we had bought Miranda Richardson the audiobook, we would not have lost all that much. Wilson's *Orlando* is pretentious and visually monotonous — but at least it has happened, which is more than you can say for Lepage and his *Elsinore*.



Miranda Richardson's musical voice and sensual presence were captivating enough for the audience, but American Robert Wilson's minimalist staging of Virginia Woolf's 'tale of androgyny in high places' during the 18th century offered virtually nothing to relieve the visual monotony

## New sweetness and light outshone by old glories

DANCE

Mark Morris  
Festival Theatre,  
Edinburgh

and girls, let loose in the garden of love, only to find that rapture can be elusive. The choreography is imbued with a lightness of touch, as light as whipped cream. But at times the decorative charms of the piece overwhelm its ardour and blunt its edge.

No fear of self-parody in the remarkable *World Power*, which Morris choreographed last year to music by Lou Harrison. The score was inspired by Mark Twain's writings on colonial domination in the Philippine war, and Harri-

son uses a gamelan orchestra (the wonderful South Bank Gamelan Players in this instance) with harp and trumpet, while Morris takes his cue from the angularity of Eastern dance styles. The result is

stunning. The first thing you notice is how quietly insistent are the rhythms, dainty footed but determined. Their repetition grows into a statement as the 14 dancers turn percussive grace into shouts of self-validation from the oppressed. One of Morris's strengths is to find an apt movement or gesture and then repeat it until it becomes etched in our consciousness, like a slogan. With a simple, well-timed stamp of each bare foot, Morris here does it again.

In any other choreographer

(with the exception, perhaps, of Merce Cunningham), the decision to set 40 minutes of dance to silence might seem arrogant. But in his 1990 piece, *Behemoth*, Morris experimented with the absolute of body language, the ritual of a dancer's physical experience. Indeed, *Behemoth* could be Morris's homage to Cunningham.

Let us forget that Morris himself was born to dance, we have *Ten Suggestions*, his 1981 solo. Set to Tcherepnin's *Bagatelles* (piano, Linda Dowdell), this is a series of ironic autobiographical vignettes. No one else could indulge in such outrageous self-admiration and still make us see the *raison d'être* of dance.

DEBRA CRAINE



Commissioned for the Edinburgh Festival, Mark Morris's *I Don't Want to Love* disappoints

### CONCERTS: Barry Tuckwell signs off as a soloist at the Proms; early music on the South Bank

WITH his horn held high, Barry Tuckwell took his leave of the London concert platform at the Proms on Tuesday. As a horn player, that is: he will doubtless be back before long with baton in hand as he continues his flourishing second career.

Tuckwell made his Proms debut 35 years ago with Mozart's Third Horn Concerto. And it was with this work that he signed off, giving a performance of gently underplayed virtuosity, its slow movement a characteristically warmly breathed aria, its "hunting" finale buoyant with that nonchalant and debonair robustness so typical of Tuckwell's playing.

It was Tuckwell's distinctively lyrical high-register playing, though, which inspired Oliver Knussen in the Horn Concerto dedicated to him and given its London premiere on Tuesday. Knussen delights in telling tales of when Tuckwell lived upstairs in their spare room in his childhood, and made the precocious young Oly a horn out of papier-mâché. It certainly paid dividends, for Knussen's

## Last of a horn of plenty

Philharmonia/  
Salonen  
Albert Hall/Radio 3

deep love for and understanding of the instrument has created a single-movement work of exquisitely imagined ideas, freedom and fluency of expression. At its British premiere at the Aldeburgh Festival last year, it was the spirit of Mahler which seemed to haunt the tremulous, rustling soundworld of tiny figures flicked from wind to percussion to strings in the opening *Intrada* and ensuing *Fantastico*. This was the horn echoing long and far from the world of *Walden* — the solitude in the woods of

German nature Romanticism. Hearing the concerto now in the wider spaces of the Albert Hall, I was struck by the powerful, almost Scriabin-esque darkness of the ghostly variations on a ground bass in its slower section.

Knussen has also spoken of Siegfried's Funeral March as a source of "strength" while writing this work: but it is the horn that remains hero. Esa-Pekka Salonen and the Philharmonia presented a particularly sensitive and satisfying context for the two horn concertos, prefacing the Knussen with Stravinsky's *Symphonies of Wind Instruments*, and following the Mozart with Sibelius's trombone-charged, single-movement Seventh Symphony. This was given a characteristically lean, lucid performance under Salonen's baton, as were Debussy's *Nocturnes*: their nuances luminous as layers of instrumental recession were defined; and their *fêtes* delighting in the score's over-shifting spaces and dancing distances.

HILARY FINCH

## Grab an early night

Musicians of the  
Globe  
Queen Elizabeth Hall

NOW that the Proms are in full swing at the Albert Hall, August is something of a fallow period for classical music at the South Bank Centre. A week-long early music festival there would seem to be just the job, since many of the concerts in Philip Pickett's programme are of the small-scale character inappropriate to the Albert Hall.

The festival opened at the Queen Elizabeth Hall with a programme of 17th-century English music performed by the Musicians of the Globe. A number of settings of songs by Shakespeare were included in the concert, together with music for broken consort by Thomas Morley and pieces of various kinds based on popular melodies.

Somehow the programme did not hang together as well in performance as it did on paper. The nature of the hall, lacking the intimacy of the Purcell Room, did not help, making it hard for the players, for all their technical accomplishment, to project the sense

of spontaneity that can bring this music alive.

The two singers managed to communicate better with the audience. The young baritone Roderick Williams has a pleasant, light voice and a sharp musical intelligence, especially apparent in his rendition of Robert Jones's lute song *Farewell Dear Love*, and Catherine Bott gave a strongly characterised performance of *Mother Watkin's Ale*, an account all the more commendable as she was suffering from a chest infection. But it was the keyboard-player, Gary Cooper, who quietly stole the show: his account on the virginals of Giles Farnaby's *Loath to Depart* was quite masterly in execution and pacing.

TESS KNIGHTON

## Lords of the word

RADIO

The real gem of the week, however, came from a most unexpected source: Test Match Special (Radio 4 long wave). Each lunchtime programme's producer, Peter Baxter, presents a cricket-related mini-documentary or discussion, and on Monday he put together a splendid item. Nominally it was a tribute to Alan McGilvray, the Australian commentator who died last month, aged 85. But what emerged was a quite extraordinary tale. He began commenting for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation before the Second World War. In those days it

was impossible to broadcast live across continents, so McGilvray did ball-by-ball commentary of the 1938 series against Australia in England — from a Melbourne studio. As each ball was bowled, a man at the English venue would send a cable to Melbourne written in key words. Bradman, square, two would become: Bradman hits the ball through square leg and they take two.

At first the system broke down, because McGilvray was taking only two minutes to describe an over that lasted four minutes. Also, competing radio stations were not going to take

ABC's pioneering work lying down. If McGilvray gave the score as 118 for two, another station would announce that the score was 124 for two. But the rivals would be in a spot if a third batsman was out before the score actually reached 124.

The fascination of McGilvray's account of these early days is twofold. First, the stamina and resourcefulness required to commentate all day on a cricket match taking place 15,000 miles away makes playing in the match sound like a piece of cake. And secondly, his activities demonstrate that sports broadcasting was at the cutting edge of competitiveness long before the arrival of multiple television channels.

PETER BARNARD

### AN EXCLUSIVE TIMES READER PROMOTION

## The Romans revealed

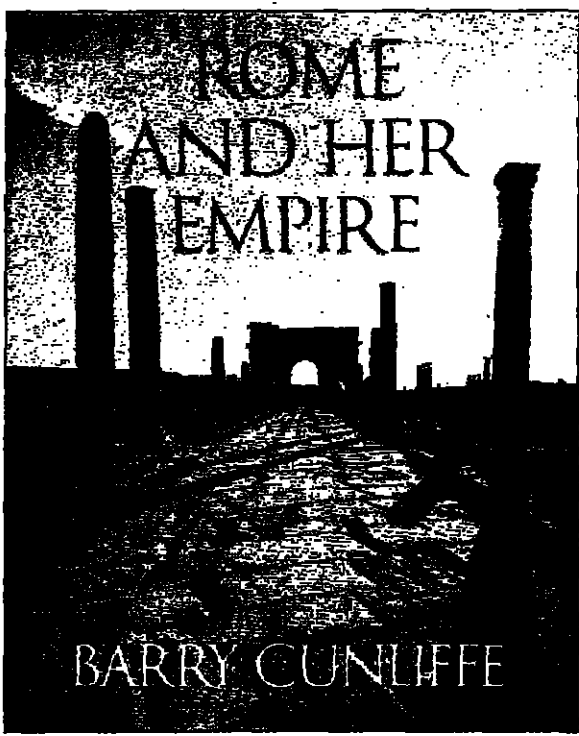
They were ruthless conquerors and sensitive builders but what was life really like for ordinary Romans?

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Jeanette Winterson on a heroine whose image transcends politics

# Still the stormy voice of France

She was born in the village of Domremy on the borders of Lorraine and Champagne. She relieved Orleans against the English siege and stood at the side of the Dauphin as he was crowned Charles VII at Rheims. She was captured, tried by the Inquisition, sold to the English and burnt as a heretic in 1431. In 1920 she was canonised as a saint.

Who was she? Joan of Arc. At once part of history and outside history. Well-known and unknowable, like Sappho or Elizabeth I, she is bound into fact, unbound as the stuff of legend. For more than 500 years her story has served as a draw-well for artists, writers and musicians, including Verdi, Rubens, Ingres, Twain, Sackville-West, Southey,

JOAN OF ARC IN HER OWN WORDS  
Compiled and Edited by  
Willard Trask

Turtlepoint Press, £8.99  
ISBN 1 85293 08 5

THE TRIAL OF JOAN OF ARC

Introduced by Marina Warner

Arthur James, £6.99  
ISBN 0 85305 354 5

Shaw. In the 20th century, film-makers, (De Mille, Rossellini), and film stars (Bergman, Seberg, Lamarr), have used Joan as a fluid heroine for modern times.

Joan the Maid, standard-bearer against the English, has become the rallying point for every possible political cause. Right and Left. She has been suffragist, class militant, apologist for Holy War, exemplar of feminine virtue, and a poster pin-up for both the pro and anti-Fascist lobbies during the Second World War. In her excellent introduction to *The Trial of Joan of Arc*, Marina Warner tells us that she was crossing the Tuileries Gardens in Paris in 1990 on Joan's feast day when a priest wearing Joan's badge approached and asked for a donation. It turned out he was recruiting for Jean-Marie Le Pen.

What can we learn from all of this? Joan's durability is not in doubt — but what of her integrity? If the clean-cut lines of her heroism can be so easily stencilled onto so many obsessions, we find ourselves asking the same fundamental question as her tormentors at her trial: was Joan of Arc genuine? This is the Christ question. Those individuals whose character, teachings or work force keen debate generation to

De Dame Jehanne la pucelle  
nouvellement venue en France.



De peuret faire les Duchesses  
Cotte les ennemis suisans  
Les roynes et les princesses  
Qu'en penseront les congnoissans

A contemporary guise of Joan the Maid: woodcut from the *Champion des dames*

generation, and long after the context of their endeavours has become obscure, have a peculiar effect on consciousness: anyone who engages, even briefly, with their ideas, is soon forced to questions of authenticity: is this the real thing?

This is uncomfortable. Much as we claim to desire it we live in terror of what is genuine, in case that steady clarity, however muddled in our hands, turns the question back on the questioner. "Is this genuine?" may become "How genuine am I?"

Unlettered Joan faced 70 lawyers and divines in her cross-examination. Her great strength and her greatest weakness was her utter sincerity. Like Gandhi, like Picasso, she believed absolutely in her work. She had no ulterior motive, neither fame nor money, and there were many among her accusers who found her peptic honesty too much to stomach. If Joan was genuine it might follow that they were not. The interests of Church and State could not be called to account by a cross-dressing peasant girl.

The books under review here both use the manuscript sources of the trial and related material, but their aims are so different that they reveal, by comparison, how easy it is to use a text for one's own purposes while claiming it speaks for itself. This began to happen to Joan only 25 years after her death, when she was posthumously pronounced innocent and used as a standard of virtue by the very people who had condemned her.

*The Trial of Joan of Arc*, printed up in an explicitly Christian series of visionary women, fixes Joan as a saint and martyr within a specific tradition. This is appropriate although there is much more to be said.

Marina Warner's subtle introduction frees Joan into other possibilities, and it is

Warner's earlier work, *Joan of Arc: The Image of Female Heroism* (1981) that has done so much to help us to understand both the cult of Joan and the strange nature of the super-myth.

There is no myth without interpretation, and to proclaim Joan of Arc "in her own words" as Willard Trask tries to do, is absolute bosh. The trial manuscripts were not written by Joan, nor were her confessions to her Chaplain, and for us, at least, whatever we read is in translation.

I do not deny that Joan's voice can be heard in the trial documents. What I do not accept is that there is any way for us to hear it unmediated. Trask's supposedly plain edition in fact turns the court account into a first person narrative, which it is not, rearranges the statements according to subject matter, footnotes nothing, and tells us that it has not been practicable to indicate omissions. The interested reader will be much better served by the rather quaint but scholarly 1956 W. S. Scott translation offered in *The Trial of Joan of Arc*. Trask's version, the Maid stripped bare, unarmoured by history or context, might be seen as another incarnation in Joan's endless rebirth, this time as the American soundbite.

ANATOLI RYBAKOV has one advantage over Jeffrey Archer, with whose blockbusters the *Children of the Arbat* trilogy ought to be compared. Reviewers in Britain are much too delicate to treat a novel by a Russian writer who has been exiled to Siberia under Stalin with the hauteur they reserve for their lowbrow, slick and inexplicably successful compatriots.

*Dust and Ashes* is the concluding volume of Rybakov's trilogy, which follows the destinies of a group of childhood friends from the Arbat, Moscow's benign answer to Sloane Square, in the decade before the war with Germany. Upsetting slightly the proposition that the recipe for a Russian bestseller is one part Harold Robbins to four parts Thomas Mann, it includes a single decorously steamy sex scene among the hundreds of pages used to describe the ruminating leaders of mankind, Hitler and Stalin.

Of Stalin's purported ruminations, which are the book's intellectual core, one can say that at their best they are inferior to the benchmark

## Stalin, by Mann out of Robbins

Andrei Navrozov

DUST AND ASHES  
By Anatoli Rybakov  
Translated by Antonina W. Bouis  
Hutchinson, £16.99  
ISBN 0 09 17462 9

standard in Vasily Grossman's period novel *Life and Fate*. But where Grossman's Stalin is the magic wand of totalitarianism that focuses the energies of a nation on a goal of world domination, here he is portrayed as a kind of angry pensioner, unfit for power and occupying the Kremlin because of a cosmic error. It was the Russian people that won it, according to Rybakov — and, finally enough, according to the history myth, inculcated into Rybakov's and another hundred million heads by Stalin.

There seems to be an insatiable demand for books about Richard Feynman, from a non-scientific readership fascinated by the fact that a great scientist can also be a human being, and from a scientifically literate readership awed by his achievements, but hoping that somehow they might learn to be like the great man. The heart of this book — the "lost lecture" itself — is strictly for the cognoscenti. But it is accompanied by an historical introduction and a charming reminiscence from David Goodstein, who was a colleague of Feynman's at the California Institute of Technology, which will also appeal to the broader canon of Feynman fans.

The surprise, to anyone who knows that Feynman was a genius who helped to lay the foundations of modern quantum theory, is the subject matter of the lecture. It goes right back to the time of Newton and Kepler, and provides a proof, using only the mathematical techniques accessible to Newton's peers, that the elliptical orbits of the planets around the Sun result from the inverse square law of gravity.

When Newton presented his version of this proof to the Royal Society in the 1680s, it marked a watershed in science, establishing that the Universe at large obeys simple, universal mathematical rules — the same rules apply to the fall of an apple from a tree, or the orbit of a planet around the Sun.

This is why the subject held such fascination for Feynman that he devoted a lecture to it, during the series of lectures he gave the undergraduates at Cal Tech in the

John Gribbin on  
a physicist's  
enduring appeal

FEYNMAN'S LOST LECTURE

The Motion of Planets  
Around the Sun

By David L. Goodstein and  
Judith R. Goodstein

Cape, £16.99  
ISBN 0 224 04394 3

early 1960s. Most of these lectures were gathered together and published as *The Feynman Lectures on Physics*, and are still in print. But the historical aside on planetary orbits didn't fit that template, which is why it was put to one side and "lost" for 30 years.



An engaging lecturer: Feynman (left) with his students at Cal Tech, 1964

Newton's demonstration of the law of ellipses is, say the Goodsteins, "one of the crowning achievements of the human mind, comparable to Beethoven's symphonies, or Shakespeare's plays, or Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel". The snag is that it is not as accessible to the lay person as any of these masterpieces. You do not have to be a musician to enjoy music, a playwright to appreciate drama, or a painter to get a thrill from the Sistine Chapel. But you do have to be at least something of a mathematician to thrill at the achievements of Newton, or Einstein, or Feynman.

The Goodsteins have gone a long way towards making a tough piece of geometry accessible to people who gave up maths as soon as the school system allowed them to. By taking us step by step through the proof, they provide insight into the way scientists think, as well as into the importance of this particular puzzle. It is a brave piece of work, and even braver to market it in a book aimed at the general public.

Without Feynman's name, it would have been impossible. To anyone with any interest at all in science, the result is fascinating, whether it really will be intelligible to a wider audience is very hard to say. But I am delighted to see the book being marketed in this way, because the image of Feynman the playboy scientist has tended to obscure the fact that he was a brilliant thinker and one of the finest scientists ever, not just of his generation. This book will do much to restore the balance.

## Vistas peopled by heroes

Glyn Maxwell

WILLIAM MORRIS  
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With an Introduction by Magnus Magnusson and a Preface by Fiona MacCarthy

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ISBN 0 90000 120 0

of the bardic heroes. But soon "it began to be a rather wearisome addition". When the "dismal bellow" finally ends, "lo the tent pulled open again, and there he is, asking us, as if he were yet a new person, if he shall sing a little song to us".

FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM, CAMBRIDGE



Dante Gabriel Rossetti's drawing of Jane Morris in an Icelandic smock (1872)

The Iceland of 1871 was in many ways indistinguishable from that of 1571 or 1271. Icelanders will tell you that Europe's last thousand years passed in their last hundred. Here is the only place in the world where a time-traveller's millennial leap would discover more alteration in the coastline than in the conversation.

For Morris, as for Auden and MacNeice sixty years on, Iceland was the setting for the Sagas and Eddas. Contemporary figures dot the landscape like tiny technicians long after the show. Though Morris met Jón Sigurdsson, father of the independence movement and one of Iceland's greatest figures, he noted him merely as "a literary man whose editions of Sagas I know very well".

For the Sagas alone people Morris's Iceland. His beautifully simple but detailed accounts of the landscape are heightened by his knowledge of what had happened there. Thoreyarnupir is "the place where Gretti stood to challenge Slaying-bardi as he came back from the Heath-Slayings". Midfjörður Water is "where the ballplay in Gretti went on". Morris knows as well as the old farmers that the Sagas are not myths.

As the incident with "Wolf" attests, however, Morris's idealised Sagaland is constantly being assailed by the present. He is not a natural traveller and too earnest a writer to gloss over his many discomforts. When the consoling mist of the Sagas momentarily lifts, he exclaims: "Lord! what littleness and helplessness has taken the place of the old passion and violence that had place here once..."

This nostalgic delusion that humankind once graced, rather than disgraced, the world informs Morris's peculiar behaviour at the farm of Statholt, when his hosts "offered to show me a seam of coal that lay, they said, in the cliffside above Nordurá... I in my hatred of coal was incurious and refused."

What is to the Icelanders of geological interest is to Morris a symbol of what has ruined both the century and country he actually lives in. His happiest moments come when his experience fuses with his literary imagination, riding towards Thingvellir — "most storied place of Iceland" — or hearing a farmer say, as Morris brushes himself off after an ignominious fall from his horse: "The skyld is not quite used to riding then!" Morris would have undergone numberless indignities to be named bard by a man of Iceland.

## Springs eternal

MICHAEL CANNON'S second novel, *A Conspiracy of Hope* (Serpent's Tail, £9.99; ISBN 1 85242 5172) tells the stories of its two principal characters, Jamie and Rachel, from school-leaving to when Jamie is in his forties and Rachel in her thirties. Jamie reads against his working-class Scottish family and escapes initially to America; Rachel completes a university degree but then sets out travelling across Europe to find herself. Jamie and Rachel first meet on a Greek island; in the final part of the novel, set several years later, Rachel and Jamie meet in London.

Summarised like that this novel may sound lame. But like the author's striking debut, *The Borough*, it isn't. Cannon observes his characters wryly, but always with a profound humanity. A part of the deeper power of the book is precisely that it deals with unexceptional people. In the factory where he works, briefly, Jamie is alienated by his workmates; Rachel is ill at

ease with the repression and hypocrisy of her family. They are both undramatic outcasts from their classes and the novel vividly succeeds in exploring their *undramatic* — but hence widely representative — sense of displacement. The close of the novel is a version of "boy gets girl". But the underlying melancholy with which these lives are viewed is not contradicted by the relative solace of the conclusion. The blurb speaks of a love story "with attitude". That makes the story sound crass, which is one thing that it certainly isn't.

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Jonathan Mirsky assesses a balanced examination of the difficulties that face both China and Hong Kong as 1997 approaches

## Machismo and a moral defence

HONG KONG  
China's Challenge  
By Michael Yahuda  
Routledge, £37.50  
ISBN 0 415 14070 6

In Michael Yahuda's elegantly written book — the best available on Hong Kong on the eve of the handover to China — there is an arresting paragraph: "British policies on the Hong Kong issue have not only been shaped by a sense of moral responsibility for the welfare of the people of Hong Kong, but they have also been fuelled by a sense of guilt... Hong Kong's people are perhaps better qualified... to govern themselves than probably any colony granted independence since the Second World War. Yet they are to be handed back to the authority of a dictatorial government... responsible by its own admissions for the callous deaths of millions of its citizens."

Did someone leak an advance copy of this book to Governor Chris Patten? On July 10, in a speech in London, he made the daringly un-PC statement: "Britain's Empire was a moral force and one for the good." He then recalled that in December 1984, when Mrs Thatcher, as she then was, came to Hong Kong from Peking after she had signed the treaty which returned the colony to

China in 1997, Emily Lau, who was then a ferocious journalist and is now an equally ferocious legislator, asked the Prime Minister if she thought delivering "over five million people into the hands of a communist dictatorship" was "morally defensible."

During the Hong Kong endgame, Mr Patten therefore observed, Britain's policies towards Hong Kong must be "morally defensible."

Nor does China hold every card. Mr Yahuda, Reader in International Relations at the London School of Economics, says that while there is a clock in Tiananmen Square displaying to



Margaret Thatcher and Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang toast Hong Kong's future, December 1984

the second time remaining before the change in Hong Kong's sovereignty, "the seconds tick for Peking too". Hence the dual meaning of the word "challenge" in the book's title.

If China manages a smooth handover, preserving the ex-colony's laws and freedoms, he says, thus ensuring that the basis and practice of its economic success remain intact, the mainland's

economy will continue its rapid modernisation and its international stature (never fully recovered from Tiananmen) will improve. As Mr Yahuda observes, there are considerable obstacles to this

course. Apart from Hong Kong, 1996-97 will be a fateful year for China. Deng Xiaoping will probably die and the leadership struggle for succession will emerge openly in a party congress. Additionally, he says, re-securing Hong Kong represents for many Chinese an end to 150 years of colonial humiliation. For the new leaders, therefore, wielding China's axe or scalpel in Hong Kong, rather than allowing it the great measure of autonomy guaranteed in the 1984 treaty, would display nationalist machismo.

One of Mr Yahuda's great strengths is his fairness, which over the years has ensured him access to British, Chinese, and Hong Kong officials. He underlines that China and Hong Kong "evolved amid deepening ignorance of important aspects of each others' ways of life". Whitehall, too, is a mystery. Peking, Mr Yahuda points out, cannot believe the British have sacrificed trade

advantages "for a moral cause that at the end of the day may yield Britain precious little". Resonating in the brains of China's negotiators is Deng Xiaoping's precept: "Watch those British lest they grab Hong Kong's capital".

I disagree with Mr Yahuda for laying as much stress as he does on the steadily improving Sino-British relations, which in my view result not from give-and-take, as he suggests, but from British give. Pity the Foreign Office foot soldiers in this diplomatic Dunkirk where there is no VE-Day in prospect.

But he is right to say that "it is impossible to envision circumstances more conducive to undermining confidence in the run-up to the handover" than Peking's installation in Hong Kong of a parallel government and legislature "working on different principles and to different agendas". In 1997, when you are watching this end of moral empire on television, and the transfer of six million people to a regime from which they or their parents fled, keep this book at your side.

## A clockwork genius

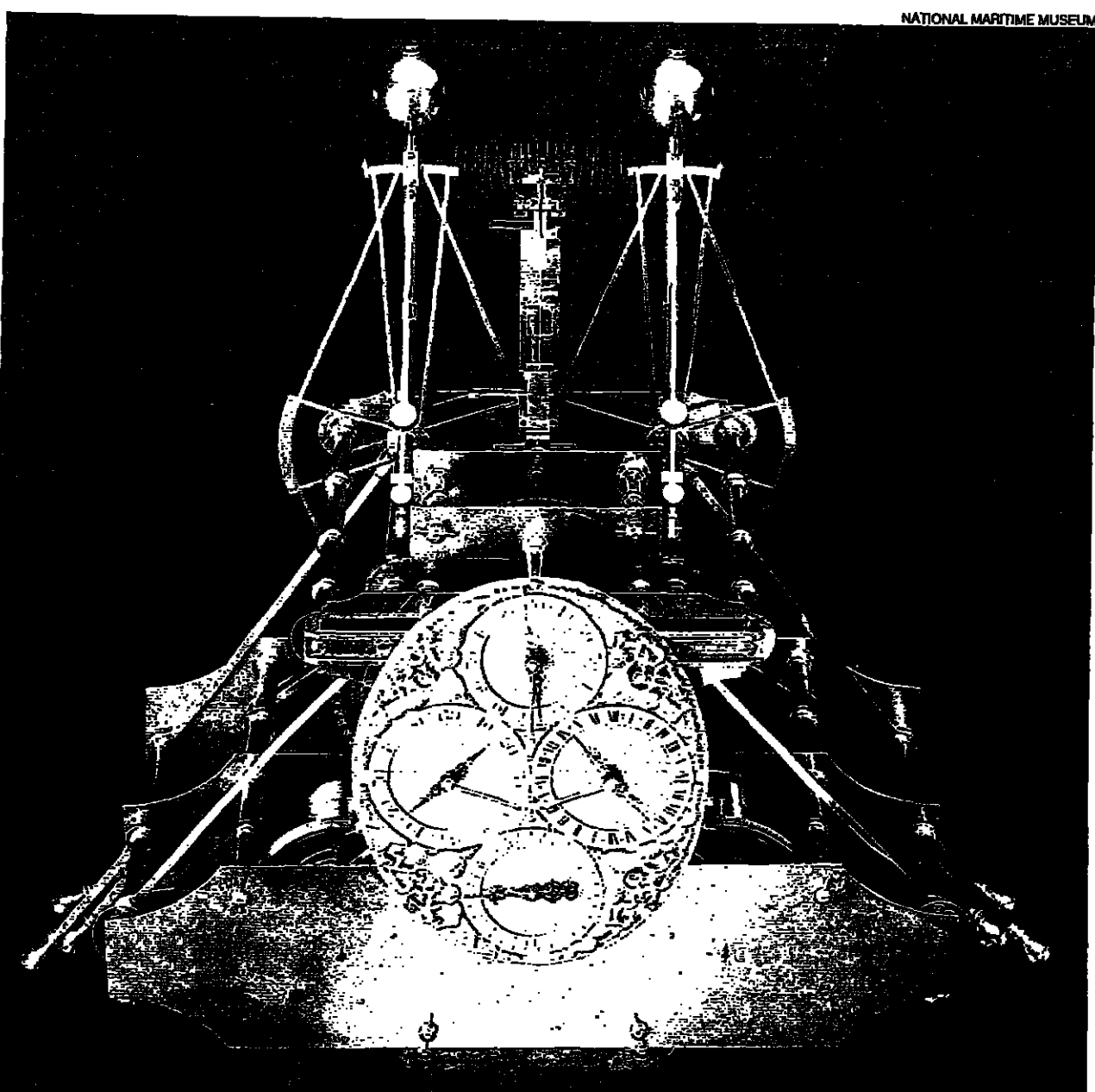
Daniel  
J. Boorstin  
admires the  
pluck of the  
amateur

When representatives of 26 nations met at the International Meridian Conference in 1884, they voted to make the Greenwich Meridian the universal reference point for measuring longitude and time. But the French, who of course would not admit that Paris was not the centre of the world, insisted that the base meridian should instead run through their Paris Observatory, two degrees east of Greenwich. Still the world (and eventually the French) acquiesced to Greenwich Mean Time, which now extends into outer space.

We seem to have forgotten that time is longitude and longitude is time. For the time-zones of the world are measured in hours (and degrees of longitude) east and west of Greenwich. Dava Sobel's graceful and lively little book will help us see how Greenwich attained its universal eminence. It also puts the spotlight on a neglected hero in the saga of the British Empire. Few others did as much as the lonely, inventive John Harrison (1693-1776) to help the British find their bearings on the sea. Other notable figures in this story include Sir Isaac Newton, Captain James Cook, and Captain William Bligh of the *Bounty*.

The British obsession with "the longitude problem" was inspired by a catastrophe on October 22, 1707, when four homebound British warships ran aground at the Isles of Scilly with a loss of some 2,000 men. The captain had no reliable way of finding his whereabouts and the islands had loomed unexpectedly. Latitude — bearings north and south of the Equator, marked by the northern and southern boundaries of the sun's apparent motion over the year — had posed a manageable problem. But longitude, the east-west marker, was far more difficult to distinguish at sea. So the British Parliament, in a famous Longitude Act of 1714, offered a reward of £20,000 for a "Practicable and Useful" means of determining longitude at sea. The prize was to be awarded by a Board of Longitude, which offered an attractive stage for personal posturing, bureaucratic delay, academic envy, and professional malice. Harrison would suffer all these before he received his reward.

The grand rivalry was between the astronomical meth-



Finding time and place: Harrison's first submission for the longitude prize, "H1", which nearly won the bounty in 1736

od (based on measurement of lunar distances and moon-to-star distances) and the chronometric method using some kind of clock. The former enjoyed the enthusiasm of the Board's famous scientists and astronomers royal, who had a vested interest in its technicality. But it was difficult on a rolling ship, required much auxiliary data and mathematical expertise and might take hours to calculate.

In a melodramatic contrast to the members of the Board, John Harrison had no formal education and had never even been apprenticed to a watchmaker, but had the passion and imagination of the amateur. The word "chronometer" first came into English usage about 1714 to describe a timekeeper designed for precision at sea. Apart from the obvious problems of the pitch and roll of a ship, an effective timekeeper at sea had to remain accurate despite wide variations of temperature which made the parts expand and contract and so affected their rate of movement. Harrison

had already solved this problem for pendulum clocks by his clever "gridiron" design. When the pendulums in clocks expanded with the heat they grew longer and ticked more slowly. Knowing that every metal expands at its own characteristic rate, he ingeniously combined long and short strips of two metals — brass and steel — in one pendulum. The strips counteracted each other's changes as temperature varied, and so the pendulum kept a constant length.

A chronometer on a rolling ship could not depend on a moving pendulum but had to be activated and controlled by springs. For this purpose Harrison devised his own "grasshopper" escapement. Lubrication was also a problem for a timekeeper in widely varying temperatures: machines needed oil in their gears, but lubricants got thicker or thinner with changes in temperature during a voyage, and so made the clock run slower or faster.

Freezing temperatures might stop the clock altogether. Harrison, the master carpenter, devised a clock that never needed lubrication. The parts that normally needed lubrication he carved of lignum vitae, a tropical hardwood that exudes its own grease.

In his early tower clock in Brooklands Park (built in 1722 and still running today) Harrison had made the gears from oak. But he used oak only from fast-growing trees with a wide grain that was especially strong because of the new wood.

Harrison's struggle for the Longitude Prize is a parable of the inspired amateur. Acute in self-criticism, he never ceased to see better ways of doing the job. Which makes Dava Sobel's well-crafted story a history not of one invention, but of a series.

In 1735, William Hogarth, the artist who had begun life as an engraver of watchcases, in his popular *Rake's Progress* showed a "longitude lunatic"

sketching his own wild solution on the walls of Bedlam Asylum. By the time of Harrison's death, the chronometer for finding longitude was standard equipment for captains of the East India Company. In 1791, when the Company issued new logbooks, the printed pages showed a special column for "Longitude by Chronometer".

It was John Harrison, more than anyone else, who had perfected the device that would give these empire-builders their bearings. He had led the way for the chronometer as the only "Practicable and Useful" solution to the longitude problem. In a nation built on a seaborne empire he had created a new industry of marine timekeeping which made Greenwich Mean Time in the late 20th century still an appropriate symbol of British conquest of the oceans. And we can thank Dava Sobel for rescuing this suspense-tale of technology and seafaring for all us armchair discoverers.

Daniel J. Boorstin is Librarian of Congress Emeritus.

LONGITUDE  
By Dava Sobel  
Fourth Estate, £12  
ISBN 1 85170 302 4

## Rituals of bureaucratic gods

Peter Jones

ATHENIAN  
RELIGION  
A History  
By Robert Parker  
Clarendon Press, £40  
ISBN 0 19 314970 4

(say) Christianity. Bibles, creeds and concepts like love and sin play no part. Far from demanding particular behaviour or belief, Greek gods primarily required acknowledgement, in some ritual form. Priests did not solve tricky theological problems or

provide moral exhortation but ensured correct procedure. The required effort of imagination is considerable. Religion is like language: self-explanatory to speakers, an illogical, babel nonsense to non-speakers.

Parker's title is carefully chosen. He points out that scholars tend to study Greek religion as a panhellenic phenomenon, and admits that, for example, the Greeks' strong sense of common cultural identity gives them grounds. Nevertheless, he argues that our evidence for Athenian religious practice is sufficient to permit intensive study of

Athens alone, and here sets out to show how religion intersects with Athenian history and society from the 8th to 3rd centuries BC.

The notorious execution of Socrates in 399 BC for "impiety" (not believing in the city's gods, introducing new gods and corrupting the young) illustrates Parker's methods well.

He points out that "corruption of the young" was the main charge that the various surviving "defences of Socrates" tried to counteract, and uses the comic poet Aristophanes' parody *Clouds* to show that (however wrongly) Socrates

was commonly perceived as a sophist and atheist. He goes on to argue that, especially in the late 5th century BC (possibly as a result of Athens' political demise), the finger was increasingly pointed at the corrupting influence of these thinkers. The charges relating to gods simply added to the gravity of the offence, since in democratic Athens only the people could authorise their introduction.

Parker's connections range far and wide. He argues, for example, that the main function of the great calendar of sacrifices drawn up by Solon

in the 6th century BC was to determine how much state money should be spent on what gods, and when (religion and economics); that the aristocratic rich used religious show to demonstrate their status (religion and power); and that the invention of democracy led to the elevation of Athens itself as an object of worship second only to the gods, and to that extent, religion was therefore not so much a mechanism for controlling the world as for celebrating Athenian achievements within it (religion and state).

It all bodes exceedingly well for ancient history at Oxford.

Dr Peter Jones helps run Friends of Classics at Newcastle University.

## Armed with faith and muskets

fascination with the Maori gods and system of belief. She reveals Hongi Hika's determination to befriend the English — and to acquire from them the muskets that will allow

him to conquer rival tribes and exact revenge for his brothers' deaths.

Stockwell, meanwhile, provides the novel's philosophical underpinnings. An apprentice printer whose crime was to possess Thomas Paine's seditious treatise *The Rights of Man*, he re-examines his Enlightenment ideals of equality and atheism in the light of his experiences on the transport ships and among the Maori. Alive with historical detail and drama, *Tapu* invites us to re-examine our own definitions of civilisation. It is a remarkably successful first novel.

Frances Stead Sellers is Deputy Editor of *Civilization*, the Washington-based magazine of the Library of Congress.

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Barbarism in the eye of the beholder: Maori chief, 1880s

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# Billington ignores the bruises

By Jenny MacArthur

A BADLY-BRUISED Geoff Billington heads the line-up of Olympic riders competing at the Silk Cut Derby meeting at Hickstead, which begins today. The centrepiece of the four-day meeting is the Silk Cut Derby on Sunday, the richest and toughest show-jumping event in Britain, offering a £400,000 first prize.

Billington, whose sixth place in the showjumping in Atlanta was the best equestrian performance by a British competitor, is nursing a bruised body — and ego — after being thrown from a novice horse while competing at a show on Monday.

The horse jumped into a double, then stopped dead. It did a somersault over his head and poled into the ground like a tent peg. Billington said yesterday: "He has had treatment from a chiropractor and intends to compete in the Derby. He will ride Mancuso, the partnership having finished eleventh last year on the horse's first attempt over the formidable Derby fences.

Although his British rivals include Nick Skelton and Michael Whitaker, former winners of the event, the rider they all have to beat is John Ledingham, of Ireland. The army officer, 38, is attempting a third successive win with Kilbaha, the only horse to have jumped two double clear rounds over the course. Ledingham's resolve is all the sharper after his disappointment last month when Kilbaha was withdrawn from Ireland's Olympic squad.

Skelton, who won three times from 1987 to 1989, is having his first attempt at the Derby for three years. He now has Cathleen, the winner of the King George V Gold Cup last month and a mare he considers to be a maverick, to tackle the demanding course. He has built his own version of the notorious Devil's Dyke — Fence 10 on the course — to practise over but says there is little that can be done to prepare for the famous Hickstead Bank with its 10ft 6in drop.

Two notable absentees this week are John Whitaker and William Funnell, whose Derby specialist, Cornex, is injured. Whitaker, runner-up for the fifth time last year after a jump-off with Ledingham, is competing in the final of the Pulsar Grand Prix in Holland, where a £400,000 prize is on offer.

His younger brother, Michael, was also due to compete there but, with his top horse, Two Step, recovering from the back injury which afflicted him in Atlanta, he has changed his plans. On Sunday, he will ride either Elton or Touchdown, James Kernan's stallion, which has been lent to him.

While Ledingham cannot break any records in the Derby this year (Michael Whitaker and Eddie Macken have both won three times with the same horse), he can do so on Saturday when he and Castepollard attempt a fourth win in the Speed Derby.

The oldest rider at the meeting, which starts today with the Silk Cut Tankard, is Nelson Pessoa, of Brazil. Pessoa, 61, gained the first of his two Derby wins on Gran Geste 33 years ago.

## Britons take giant leap for disabled sport

Stephen Wood meets two women taking water skiing onto a different level

It is not often that Britain can lay claim to pushing back the boundaries of sport, but two of the country's most gifted water skiers will do just that amid the rolling hills of Lancashire this weekend. Viv Orchard and Barbara Russell are poles apart as people but they have been thrown together by their respective disabilities and share such determination and hunger for respect that they only deal in innovation.

Orchard, 30, who has a leg amputated, and Russell, blind since her early twenties, recently became the first disabled women to successfully land a jump in water skiing competition. That was at the British championships in June and, over the next four days, the rest of the world will have to take note.

They are part of a 14-strong British team that will defend its European disabled water skiing championship title at the Cwmnwl reservoir, Whitworth, two miles north of Rochdale. Britain has won the title four times in succession and, with Orchard and Russell performing such remarkable feats, it is unlikely any other country will spoil the party.

Most able-bodied people would find it hard to pluck up the courage to be pulled along at 55km per hour by a speedboat, then jump off a 3ft-high ramp and land perfectly in the water. Take away the use of one leg or the power of sight and the task becomes all the trickier.

Orchard, an exhibition organiser from Fulham, said: "My reason for attempting the jump standing on one leg is not just because I need personal respect, but because



Russell, who is blind, lands another jump during practice for the European championship this weekend

I want people to speak of our sport in the same breath as the able-bodied efforts.

"People say to me all the time how brilliant I am to be able to water ski, but I will only accept any praise if it is worthy. It's not amazing if I fail, it's only worthy if I can take sport, and my own performance, to new heights. That's what it is all about."

She lost her right leg in a train accident when she was 17. "I was running to catch my train, tried to jump on board, but missed and fell down the side of the platform," she said. "It was unnecessary and I wish it hadn't happened, but you have just got to get on with your life."

"In a way, more good has come of it, because I've had the opportunities with water

skiing, and some of my friends have never been able to do the things I have." She had only "dabbled" in water skiing before her accident but her natural passion for sport has undoubtedly helped since.

She said: "Balance is everything when you go over a ramp with only one working leg and I wouldn't be able to do it if I was not sporty or fit."

"The water skiing has taken over from my other passions, like hockey. With water skiing, I knew I could improve and improve the sport as a whole. So pride does come into it some-where."

Russell, 40, from Bourne-mouth, was born partially

sighted but lost her sight completely in her early twenties. She never water skied before that, which makes her subsequent achievements all the more remarkable.

When she is on the water, a guide skis with her until 30 metres before the ramp then moves off, leaving her alone. By then she should be on line and, if she is not, the consequences are not worth thinking about.

"It is the most exciting thing when my guide leaves me," she said. "From then until I hit the water again, I'm in a world of my own — it's like I'm suspended in time and I've lost myself. It is dangerous, but those few seconds are thrilling and why I was hooked as soon as I tried the sport."

Both will increase the height of the ramp in future competitions as they strive for greater recognition. For the moment, though, they are aiming to improve on their record distances. Orchard of 7.6 metres and Russell of 12.4 metres.

This year is the first time Britain has hosted the European championship and, as a setting, Cwmnwl is perfect. It is picturesque and calm, but today Orchard and Russell will create the storm that should make the rest of Europe worry intensely. Some foreign competitors have already heard of their new technique and want to copy it but cannot.

"The fear factor is too strong for them," Russell said.

## Barbarians to be led by Roumat

OLIVIER ROUMAT, the France lock, who has remained with Dax despite being linked with various English rugby union clubs, will lead the Barbarians against Wales in Cardiff on August 24. He becomes the first Frenchman to lead the invitation team. The Barbarians, who play Scotland in the Dublin international on Saturday, include new uncapped Fijians, Marika Gasuna, a flanker, and Aparama Bose on the wing.

## Lendl tees off

Golf: Ivan Lendl, who was twice a Wimbledon runner-up and who won more than £13.5 million in prize-money in a distinguished tennis career, competes in the Chemapol Czech Open in Mariánské Lázně, starting today, his first leading Tour event. The Czech-born Lendl, who is now a United States citizen, said: "My big ambition is not to embarrass myself."

## Henman departs

Tennis: Tim Henman, the British No 1, lost 6-2, 6-4, 6-4 to the unseeded doubles specialist, Mark Knowles, of the Bahamas, in the first round of the RCA championships in Indianapolis.

## Athens lines up

Olympic Games: Athens, the city that staged the first Games of the modern era in 1896, yesterday submitted its bid to stage the 2004 Games to the International Olympic Committee at its headquarters in Lausanne.

## THE LEADING 100 ENTRIES IN THE TIMES INTERACTIVE TEAM CRICKET GAME

Pos	Team (Player's name)	Pts	Pos	Team (Player's name)	Pts
1	Eastons Goats 2 (J. Easton)	15020	51	Odyssey Three (M. Long)	13772
2	Scottish A (P. Schofield)	14901	52	The Runrums (J. Davenport)	13771
3	Eastons Goats 1 (J. Easton)	14816	53	Odyssey Four (M. Long)	13747
4	Eastons Goats 3 (J. Easton)	14720	54	Odyssey Five (M. Long)	13747
5	Spread Eagles 3rd XI (P. Stewart)	14700	55	Odyssey Six (M. Long)	13747
6	Opportunists 4th XI (P. Stewart)	14680	56	Odyssey Seven (M. Long)	13747
7	Opportunists 3rd XI (P. Stewart)	14620	57	Odyssey Eight (M. Long)	13747
8	Kid's Coriers 2 (N. Kibb)	14438	58	Odyssey Nine (M. Long)	13747
9	Caroline A (A. Luckhurst)	14375	59	Odyssey Ten (M. Long)	13747
10	Caroline B (A. Luckhurst)	14375	60	Odyssey Eleven (M. Long)	13747
11	The Iron Machine (N. Kibb)	14302	61	Odyssey Twelve (M. Long)	13747
12	K.P. Alsters 3 (R. P. Alster)	14288	62	Odyssey Thirteen (M. Long)	13747
13	The Run Rats (N. Kibb)	14244	63	Odyssey Fourteen (M. Long)	13747
14	Opportunists 1st XI (P. Stewart)	14244	64	Odyssey Fifteen (M. Long)	13747
15	Bowled Marilyn (M. P. Alster)	14234	65	Odyssey Sixteen (M. Long)	13747
16	Caroline C (A. Luckhurst)	14214	66	Odyssey Seventeen (M. Long)	13747
17	Chester High School (A. Luckhurst)	14178	67	Odyssey Eighteen (M. Long)	13747
18	Caroline D (A. Luckhurst)	14147	68	Odyssey Nineteen (M. Long)	13747
19	Working Wonders (D. Brunt)	14118	69	Odyssey Twenty (M. Long)	13747
20	Caroline E (A. Luckhurst)	14118	70	Odyssey Twenty One (M. Long)	13747
21	Se. Hiders (N. Kibb)	14104	71	Odyssey Twenty Two (M. Long)	13747
22	Tommy's Tops (C. Hubert)	14088	72	Odyssey Twenty Three (M. Long)	13747
23	Freds Team (R. Price)	14048	73	Odyssey Twenty Four (M. Long)	13747



The scores in brackets are the points scored in the last week; the other scores are the cumulative points scored since the start of the season. The figures include all matches completed by August 12. Overseas players are shown in bold type, rising stars in *italics*.

### Batsmen (001-135)

Player (No)	Runs	Wickets	Total
C. J. Adams (001)	1223 (44)	0	1223 (44)
G. F. Archer (002)	94 (0)	0	94 (0)
M. A. Atherton (003)	752 (12)	0	752 (12)
C. W. A. Bailey (004)	807 (28)	0	807 (28)
N. B. Baker (005)	500 (50)	0	500 (50)
N. R. Barnett (006)	570 (12)	0	570 (12)
M. J. B. Bates (007)	1225 (10)	0	1225 (10)
D. J. B. Bates (008)	1130 (10)	0	1130 (10)
D. A. B. Bates (009)	961 (104)	0	961 (104)
P. D. Bailey (010)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (011)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (012)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (013)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (014)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (015)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (016)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (017)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (018)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (019)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (020)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (021)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (022)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (023)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (024)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (025)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (026)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (027)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (028)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (029)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (030)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (031)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (032)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (033)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (034)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (035)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (036)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (037)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (038)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (039)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (040)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (041)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (042)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (043)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (044)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (045)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (046)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (047)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (048)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (049)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (050)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (051)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (052)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (053)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (054)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (055)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (056)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (057)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (058)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (059)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (060)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (061)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (062)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (063)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (064)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (065)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (066)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (067)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (068)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (069)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (070)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (071)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (072)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (073)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (074)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (075)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (076)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (077)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (078)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (079)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (080)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (081)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (082)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (083)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (084)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (085)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (086)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (087)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (088)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (089)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (090)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (091)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (092)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (093)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (094)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (095)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (096)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (097)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (098)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (099)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)
P. D. Bailey (100)	268 (0)	0	268 (0)

The transfer line will open at 6pm each Tuesday and will close at 6pm the following Monday. All transfers made during this period will be applied to team selectors' teams after the commencement of the next first-class match. (Transfer times may be altered slightly to accommodate schedule of first-class matches and prior notification will be published in The Times). Transfers may only be made by telephone by calling

0891 866 964

A team selector may transfer up to two players in his/her team per transfer period. Whether you are transferring one or two players, your team must be rendered correct according to the format of the team. One all-rounder, one wicketkeeper and four bowlers and including one rising star and one overseas player (but no more than one of either) by the end of the call. You may check your team score and position in ITC by calling the ITC check line on

0891 774 779

### Wicketkeepers (225-256)

Player (No)	Runs	Wickets	Total
A. J. Armes (225)	580 (23)	0	580 (23)
R. J. Bailey (226)	408 (28)	0	408 (28)
N. M. K. Smith (227)	554 (0)	0	554 (0)
R. J. Bailey (228)	1021 (34)	0	1021 (34)
R. J. Bailey (229)	784 (78)	0	784 (78)
R. J. Bailey (230)	671 (24)	0	671 (24)
R. J. Bailey (231)	632 (23)	0	632 (23)
R. J. Bailey (232)	53 (33)	0	53 (33)
R. J. Bailey (233)	138 (18)	0	138 (18)
R. J. Bailey (234)	188 (0)	0	188 (0)
R. J. Bailey (235)	171 (0)	0	171 (0)
R. J. Bailey (236)	785 (126)	36	785 (126)
R. J. Bailey (237)	92 (22)	0	92 (22)
R. J. Bailey (238)	803 (103)	0	803 (103)
R. J. Bailey (239)	436 (123)	0	436 (123)
R. J. Bailey (240)	427 (114)	0	427 (114)
R. J. Bailey (241)	880 (116)	0	880 (116)
R. J. Bailey (242)	707 (0)	0	707 (0)
R. J. Bailey (243)	379 (0)	0	379 (0)
R. J. Bailey (244)	1381 (0)	0	1381 (0)
R. J. Bailey (245)	700 (71)	0	700 (71)
R. J. Bailey (246)	519 (46)	0	519 (46)
R. J. Bailey (247)	102 (11)	0	102 (11)
R. J. Bailey (248)	830 (103)	0	830 (103)
R. J. Bailey (249)	436 (123)	0	436 (123)
R. J. Bailey (250)	427 (114)	0	427 (114)
R. J. Bailey (251)	880 (116)	0	880 (116)
R. J. Bailey (252)	707 (0)	0	707 (0)
R. J. Bailey (253)	379 (0)	0	379 (0)
R. J. Bailey (254)	1381 (0)	0	1381 (0)
R. J. Bailey (255)	700 (71)	0	700 (71)
R. J. Bailey (256)	519 (46)	0	519 (46)
R. J. Bailey (257)	102 (11)	0	102 (11)
R. J. Bailey (258)	830 (103)	0	830 (103)
R. J. Bailey (259)	436 (123)	0	436 (123)
R. J. Bailey (260)	427 (114)	0	427 (114)
R. J. Bailey (261)	880 (116)	0	880 (116)
R. J. Bailey (262)	707 (0)	0	707 (0)
R. J. Bailey (263)	379 (0)	0	379 (0)
R. J. Bailey (264)	1381 (0)	0	1381



**THUNDERER**  
5.35 Spinning Mouse. 6.05 Courageous Dancer  
6.35 Rehaab. 7.05 Perfect Bliss. 7.35 Croft Pool  
8.05 Charisse Dancer.  
Newmarket Correspondent: 5.35 Spinning Mouse

**Obituary, page 19**

1967 - 1971 5 million MCO

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ask for 27.9 per cent.

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■  $\alpha$  = 0.05



GOLF: AUSTRALIAN DEFENDS BRITISH OPEN TITLE AGAINST MOST COSMOPOLITAN WOMEN'S FIELD EVER ASSEMBLED

# Webb ready to repeat her Woburn triumph

BY PATRICIA DAVIES

AT THIS time last year, Evelyn and Robert Webb were at home in Ayr in northern Queensland, bleary-eyed and disbelieving as the voice on the other end of the telephone regaled them with details of how their daughter, Karrie, was winning the Weetabix Women's British Open at Woburn by six shots.

Twelve months on and the Webb family, including younger daughter, Karrie, are at the scene of the triumph, able to believe their eyes rather than their ears as Karrie starts the defence of her title on the Duke's Course today.

She has proved that the victory, her first as a professional, was no fluke and that she is already, at 21, one of the best women golfers in the world. At the end of last year, in a typically impressive piece of punditry, Peter Thomson, her fellow Australian, forecast that it would not take Webb long to become a force and she has not let him down.

In her first three events on the LPGA (Ladies' Professional Golf Association) Tour, Webb finished second, first and second, and did not finish out of the top ten until her seventh tournament. In her ninth event, the Sprint Titleholders Championship, she was first again.

There is enough money for a house in Florida and a car. It is a more modest vehicle than the Ferrari that Laura Davies, a good friend, has just purchased but Webb was due to go for a spin yesterday afternoon. "I've sat in a couple before," she said, "but I've never been for a drive."

The only sour note since Webb's win at Woburn has been that Todd Haller, the fiancé who caddied for her, is no longer with her, either on or off the course. Webb is reluctant to discuss the matter but she did admit that "it was so hard being together 24 hours a day". To cope so well with all the attention, emotional upheaval and a new way of

life in a strange country is a tribute to her resilience and composure, and to the help and advice she has received from other players.

Although she has now replaced Davies as No 1 on the US money-list, after finishing second in her two most recent events, Webb is not favourite for the championship. She is quored at 11-1 by William Hill, the bookmakers, behind Davies and Annika Sorenstam, who are 9-2 joint-favourites. Liselotte Neumann and Trish Johnson are 14-1, with Dottie Pepper and Meg Mallon, of the United States, both on a tempting 16-1.

There are players from 22 countries competing this week as the British Open begins to take on a truly international look. Tony Greer, the statistician of the International Management Group (IMG), is convinced that it is the most cosmopolitan women's championship ever, anywhere, and has the lists to prove it.

Twenty of the top 30 on the LPGA money-list are here, including the top five (one only of whom, Mallon, is American). The top 50 from the American Express European Tour are here, barring Mardi Lunn. Sadly, she and her sister Karen, champion in 1993, had to withdraw because of the death of their father. There are also seven of the top 12 from the Japan LPGA money-list competing, plus the American-based Japanese, Mayumi Hirase and Hiromi Kobayashi.

The prize-money is a substantial £500,000, which counts on both the US and European money-lists, and there are Solheim Cup points on offer, a matter of some interest to both the Americans and the Europeans anxious to do battle against each other at St Pierre next month.

Being an Australian, Webb has no such worries and she might well triumph again — a cereal winner, so to speak.



Perfect match: Davies, left, believes that she has the natural strength in her game to confront the supremacy of Faldo among British golfers

## Davies measures up to Faldo challenge

BY JOHN HOPKINS  
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

THIS morning Laura Davies will set out to win the fifth major championship of her career when she plays the first round of the Weetabix Women's British Open at Woburn. Meanwhile, in Denver, Colorado, Nick Faldo will try to forget the disappointment of finishing 65th in the US PGA Championship last week, the final major championship of the men's calendar, and try to win his second tournament in the United States this year.

Davies MBE, who owns a Ferrari among other cars and loves sport, and Faldo MBE, a fisherman and follower of the band, Huey Lewis and the News, are Britain's best golfers. Davies's style of play is based on enormous power, a velvet touch and an uncomplicated attitude. Faldo's on the relentless elimination of error helped by an intimidat-

ing presence. Davies is ranked No 2 in the world among women, Faldo fourth among the men. If Davies were to play Faldo from the same tees, who would win?

"I'd hold my own," Davies said. Even without the advantage of driving from the ladies' tees? "Oh sure," she said. "Length is no problem." Indeed it is not, as Tom Watson, who played with Davies in Australia earlier this year, confirmed. "She hits the ball further than I've ever seen a woman hit it," he said. "She is very strong. She's got big long hands and she makes a strong move at the ball. From the same tees, for the most part, I could out-drive her but, every now and then, she'd out-drive me. With her short irons — from wedge to seven-iron — she is a good five yards longer than I am."

God has given Davies all the levers necessary to help her propel a golf ball a long way — long, powerful arms and legs, as well as hands that generate considerable speed. She is the longest hitter on the women's tour, averaging 257 yards.

### CAREER DETAILS

#### LAURA DAVIES

Age: 33  
Winn: 45  
Major championships: US Women's Open 1987, McDonald's LPGA championship 1994, 1995, du Maurier Classic 1996  
Turned professional: 1985  
Earnings: £2,677,255  
World ranking: No 2

#### NICK FALDO

Age: 39  
Winn: 36  
Major championships: Open 1987, 1990, 1992; Masters 1989, 1990, 1996  
Turned professional: 1978  
Earnings: £3,074,931  
World ranking: No 4

way — long, powerful arms and legs, as well as hands that generate considerable speed. She is the longest hitter on the women's tour, averaging 257 yards.

Faldo's average is only five yards more but, whereas averages in Faldo's case are relevant, they are less so in Davies's case because she is so long that she often has to rein herself in and use an iron for accuracy. Sure enough, she thinks she drives much further. "Oh, I whack it about 285," she said, as if there was nothing special about that at all. "I hit my two-iron about 230 yards. I must admit I am very long with my short irons."

I can hit a nine-iron 170 yards."

In the 1920s, Bobby Jones, the legendary amateur, described Joyce Wethered as the greatest striker of a ball he had ever seen, man or woman. Wethered was truly exceptional. Most women do not have the strength to generate clubhead speed, which is a handicap from rough and bunkers, and in generating backspin.

"Golf for women is a lot harder than for men," Nick Price said. "They don't have the ability to put a lot of spin on the ball. Why? Strength. We can spin those wedge shots a lot more. But also they can't stop their mid-irons as quickly as we can so they are not so accurate as we are."

Any advantage in the quality of striking that Faldo might appear to have over Davies is, however, neutralised by Davies's strength. "I've got a game more like men's," Davies said.

I can handle a long golf course whereas some of the other women couldn't. They do have the power in their hands and arms. I am strong enough to get out of the rough and play those bunker shots. I've got imagination. I'd back myself in any short-game

skills contest against any man."

Price believes that women do not put as well as the men and Davies agrees. "It's because of the quality of the greens we play on," she said. "Ours vary so much it is hard to improve. The men's tour provides them with good greens all the time. That is why they are better."

In terms of dominance in their respective fields, there's no comparison between Laura and Faldo. Price said, "Laura has dominated women's golf far more than Faldo has men's golf. Every time she plays well, she wins by a street."

Would she win a match with Faldo? If it were strokeplay, Faldo's relentlessness and attention to detail should triumph. His scoring average over 44 rounds in the United States season is 70.2 compared with Davies's 70.2 in 43 rounds. At matchplay, though, Davies should have the edge, even though by one yardstick of adventurous play — eagles and birdies — her tally of 158 is 24 fewer than Faldo's 182. "If we played off the same tees on a course of, perhaps, 7,000 yards, I'd fancy myself to win two or three times out of ten," Davies said.

### BOWLS

## Lindores suffers last-bowl defeat

BY GORDON ALLAN

JOYCE LINDORES, of Scotland, suffered her first defeat in the women's world singles championship at Leamington Spa yesterday. Judy Howat, from New Zealand, won 25-23 but, with six qualifying rounds to go, Lindores is still at the top of her section and well placed to reach the final on Sunday.

Taking the mat up the green, Howat, a vastly experienced player from Wellington, battled back from 10-15 down to lead 24-21. Lindores scored a double and then held three shots on the decisive end. Howat cut out two of them and, with her last bowl, moved the jack sideways for the winner.

Margaret Johnston, the defending champion from Ireland, lost 25-13 to Babs Anderson, of Botswana, in the morning but then edged past Wendy Line, of England, 25-24, to stay in contention. Johnston has suffered three defeats so far and cannot afford another.

Rita Jones, of Wales, heads

Results 38

the other section with a better shots difference than Carmen Anderson, of Norfolk Island, and Willow Fong, the Fijian who represents Australia. Fong topped the previous leader, Jo Peacock, of South Africa, 25-23. Peacock is now in fourth position.

In the fours, Scotland, the holders, drew 22-22 with the leaders, South Africa. Scotland dropped two shots on the last end against the South Africans, who were without their regular lead, Jannie de Beer. De Beer fell down the stairs in her hotel on Tuesday night, breaking her left arm. Marge Ellis, the team manager, and an international in her own right, took De Beer's place.

South Africa stay at the top with Israel second, Scotland third and England fourth. The England team of Norma Shaw, Jean Baker, Gill Fitzgibbon and Mary Price beat Malaysia, their unexpected conquerors in the triples, 21-17 after making a slow start.

Australia easily beat Papua New Guinea to lead the other section, with New Zealand second and Jersey third. Wales stand sixth.

The optimists who thought that the home countries, with their superior knowledge of the Leamington greens, would dominate or even monopolise the championships are wide of the mark so far.

## SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This hand illustrates a point of dummy play, in which the declarer plays on a side suit before drawing trumps to avoid losing control.

Dealer South	Love all	Rubber bridge
♠ 44		
♥ 865		
♦ A Q 3 2		
♣ K 9 4 3		
♠ 8 8 6 5		
♥ K Q 10 4		
♦ J 8 7		
♣ A K Q 10 7		
♠ 3 2		
♥ A J 9 7		
♦ K 10 8 5		
♣ Q 10 2		
♠ 4		
♥ A J 7 6 5		

Contract: Four Spades by South, Lead king of hearts

North's Four Diamonds is a cue-bid; however, when South rebids Four Spades North wisely passes. In cue-bidding sequences in which four of a major is a possible contract, it is usual to play that a bid of the major is an attempt to play there.

The defence start with three rounds of hearts, and you ruff the third round. How should you continue?

The danger in drawing trumps immediately is that if they are 4-2, you will have none left when you start on clubs. Then if you lose a club trick the defence will be able to cash a heart.

The solution is to play clubs first, while dummy still has a trump to look after the heart force. It is best to lead low to the king of clubs, and continue with another towards the ace.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

## KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

### Vienna stars

An elite tournament is taking place in Vienna, which has attracted many of the world's top players, with the exception of Garry Kasparov. After four rounds the increasingly successful Bulgarian grandmaster, Veselin Topalov, leads with three points, ahead of Anatoly Karpov on 2.5. The world ranked No 3, Vladimir Kramnik, got off to a dreadful start, losing his first two games.

White: Boris Gelfand

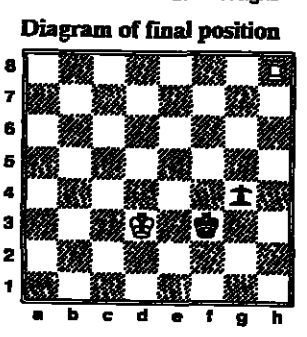
Black: Anatoly Karpov

Bank Austria, Vienna, August 1996

### Queen's Indian Defence

1 Nf3	M6
2 c4	b6
3 g3	b7
4 Bg2	b7
5 d4	e7
6 Nc3	0-0
7 Re1	d5
8 cxd5	exd5
9 d4	exd5
10 Bf4	exd5
11 dxe5	Nc5
12 Re1	a5
13 a3	Re8
14 Nd4	Bd6
15 Bxd6	Qxd6
16 Qd2	Re7
17 Rd1	g6
18 Qf4	Qd4
19 g4	Kf8
20 a3	Rd6
21 b4	Ne6
22 Ne2	Rd7
23 a4	Nd8
24 a5	Bd6
25 Nc3	Ba8
26 Bf1	b5
27 b5	Re7
28 Ra1	Rc7
29 Na2	Rb7
30 Bf1	Re7
31 Rb1	Re7

32 Nf4	Nc5
33 Rc1	Rb7
34 Rb1	Nd7
35 Nbc6	Rc7
36 Ne5	Ke7
37 Rc3	Re7
38 Rc2	Nd7
39 Rc5	Nc7
40 Rxc7+	Ke7
41 Nf2	Ke7
42 f5	g5
43 Ke1	Bb5
44 Bxb5	Nxb5
45 Bxb5	axb5
46 Rxb5	Rc6
47 Rc5	Rc6
48 Kd2	Rd3
49 Kc2	Rb3
50 Kb2	Re2+
51 Kx3	Re2
52 a6	Rh1
53 Kd4	Rd1
54 Ra5	Rd1+
55 Kc5	Rd8
56 a7	Rd8
57 Kc6	h5
58 Kc7	Rc7+
59 Kc8	Kd6
60 Kd5	Nd7
61 Re5	Nd7
62 Rc2	Kd5
63 Rf2	Kd5
64 Rf3	Kd5
65 Kd4	Kd5
66 Kd4	Kd5
67 Kd4	Kd5
68 Rf8	Kd5
69 Kd3	Black resigns



Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

### WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

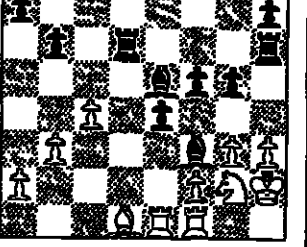
ORTEGUINA	PSEUDORANDOM
a. A pass	a. False praying
b. A melancholy serenade	b. Not really random
c. Sweet sherry	c. Hypocrisy
REINAGE	REINAGE
a. A dog sledge	a. A dog sledge
b. The afterlife	b. The afterlife
c. A Norse goddess	c. A Norse goddess

Answers on page 42

### WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Engholm — Nilsson, Malmö 1937. Despite the reduced forces, Black found a way to break through on the kingside and score a quick win. Can you see how?



Solution on page 42

THE TIMES THURSDAY  
FOOTBALL  
Strike to pu  
League







# RADIO CHOICE

## When badges aren't enough



# Never mind the length, fight for quality

A documentary made this summer and another made 30 years ago were the most eye-catching items in the schedules last night, yet it was a modest little number on Channel 4 that came up on the rails to steal the main plaudits. Never judge an evening by the listings.

A huge Russian with the ability to arch his body and use it to support several weights plus five men, a total of more than 2,200lbs, did not seem like the stuff of riveting television. But it was, because Valentin Dikul is a genuine hero, a truly extraordinary man.

**Short Stories:** Strongman began as the story of Matthew Strongman, who is himself remarkable enough. He has a broken back but has won world championships and three gold medals in the Paralympics for skiing. But he wants to walk again and Channel 4 followed him to Moscow in pursuit of that ambition. There he

attended the rehabilitation centre run by Dikul, who had broken his back when a trapeze bar snapped during his circus act. Doctors confronted Dikul with the dread words: you will never walk again. Dikul did walk again. He knew that a broken back is not quite as hopeless as a broken neck. He has a maxim, and shame on anyone who thinks it trite: "Those who believe will work and those who work will walk." Dikul believes that most muscles can be taught to do their old jobs and that muscles which are beyond repair can have their jobs done by other muscles.

He makes no extravagant claims, performs no miracles, dispenses neither potions nor promises. After his own accident, he spent all day every day on the floor of a gymnasium, exercising. He worked through incredible pain. By evening the exhaustion was such that he fell asleep on the floor. Cleaners arriving next morn-

ing found him still and prone. Convinced he was dead, they rushed for a doctor.

Dikul continued this regime for... weeks? Months? No, five years. He already knew some anatomy and learnt a lot more from his experience. Now in his fifties, he is back in the circus, tossing 100lb balls into the air and catching them on the back of his neck.

Dikul believes that "movement means life to people. The human organism has so many undiscovered resources and possibilities". This may be so, but the point about Dikul is that he has limitless determination, incredible will. At his rehabilitation centre, he offered Strongman what he offers others: some technique and some equipment to take home. And masses of inspiration.

Compared with Dikul, the assembled yobbers at this summer's Euro 96 football champion-

## REVIEW



Peter Barnard

of thing and we learnt nothing new last night.

The truth about football hooliganism is that there is not much of it about and most of what there was in June was the product of too much booze. A documentary about the advanced state of police intelligence would have been interesting, but not so telegraphic.

So we were left with endless footage of heaving masses and police officers talking into radios and pointing at video screens. Pictures for their own sake. I longed for Valentin Dikul to walk in and reduce the television set to chopsticks.

His failure to do so at least ensured that I watched a proper documentary about proper people. This was *Don't Count the Candles* (BBC2), the first television film made by Lord Snowdon, in the 1960s, in black and white.

This film, and Snowdon's still photography, demonstrate his unerring eye for picture composition

and his ability as a director to be present in a room without dominating the proceedings, a lesson some modern documentary makers could learn to their benefit and ours. *Don't Count the Candles* is about old age but the film itself has not aged one bit.

Snowdon tackled on a new introduction. He said he was 35 when he made the film but now has a bus pass. "It's a fairly episodic film and it's also quite snobbish, there are a lot of name people in it." The apologetic tone was unnecessary, for the names — Noel Coward, Lady Asquith, Barbara Hepworth, among others — were good value.

So were more ordinary mortals, whose recurring theme was that the central fear of ageing has to do with loneliness and the loss of physical independence. The battle against ageing, often pictured as some new-fangled thing, was

shown as very much a 1960s development, from fitness clubs to hairpieces.

There was also an extraordinary sequence about fluids being injected into people. The fluids had been taken from aborted fetuses removed from a specially reared flock of sheep in Switzerland. Coward said that he had some of these injections, but had no idea whether they had done him any good.

I have no objection to people trying to remain youthful, except that the more extreme manifestations of this imply an insulting attitude to old age, which can be rewarding and full of zest (I hope).

And I suppose I had been prejudiced against the trivial, whether in the form of vanity or longevity, by the insistent vision of Valentin Dikul, sweating on the hard wooden floor of a Russian gym. Last night, he alone seemed to embody the value of life, rather than its length.

## CHOICE

### Black Bag: Suicide Warriors

Channel 4, 8.00pm

Question: What makes the Black Tigers of Sri Lanka different from other rebels? Answer: They are willing to die if they can take the "enemy" with them. This was true of Japan's kamikaze pilots but unlike them the Black Tigers (the elite suicide bombers within the Tamil army) do not expect a reward in Heaven. The war between the majority Sinhalese Government and the Tamil separatists has been raging since the late 1970s and so far has killed more than 40,000 — including countless civilians. Sabitha Sumari's unique film concentrates on a force within the Tamils which may be their secret strength: the women, fighting for equality with their men, are often better at precision shooting and bombing. And they are just as fanatical, eager and proud to be accepted as Black Tigers. Says one: "Even if we fall in love we will not deviate from our aim." Chilling.

### One Foot on the Continent

BBC2, 8.30pm

"Southern Tuscany... there is something improbable about its beauty," intones Andrew Graham-Dixon as he takes *One Foot on the Continent* on his first foreign assignment. As you'd expect from this intrepid team, there is nothing touristy or obvious in their Italian discoveries. Pienza, a perfect Renaissance town "created by Pope Pius II, has a Gothic cathedral inspired by our very own York — but without stained-glass windows. This Pope wanted sun," says Dixon. Kirsty Wark's Verona "has not been in the guidebooks since 1976 when two earthquakes obliterated most of it." But the townfolk have sifted through the rubble to reconstruct their gem in the Dolomites. And if you thought you knew Palermo — well, think again when you follow Dan Cruickshank into the Palazzo Chiese.

### Secret History: Harold Wilson — The Final Days

Channel 4, 9.00pm

By the time he had won his fourth election in 1974, was the Prime Minister turning paranoid? Ten years on from his first, buoyant success, Wilson had begun to drink heavily and was obsessed by rumours that renegade MI5 officers were seeking to undermine his Government. Certainly there were accelerating smears against the Labour Party, not least the allegation of links between Wilson and the KGB. But was Wilson right to be so suspicious — or was he becoming mentally unstable, a "tragic figure," as one correspondent, Christopher Pincher, when Wilson resigned, a broken man, in 1976? Retired officers from the CIA, KGB and MI5, together with some of Wilson's closest circle, suggest not only that there were indeed plots aimed at bringing the man to his knees but that they are partly vindicated by an unofficial inquiry ordered by Wilson's successor, James Callaghan.

### Defence of the Realm: Trident Countdown

BBC1, 10pm

This unprecedented inside look at the MoD is shaping into an impressive series. It is hard to fault the immense sense of occasion, the patriotism and tension among the 134-strong crew of the submarine HMS Victorious as she prepares for the big day. The test firing of one of her 16 (unarmed) Trident missiles. As each warhead is five times more powerful than the Hiroshima bomb there are obvious questions to be asked and reporter Peter Taylor doesn't fudge them. But Commander Tony Powis revels in the responsibility... there is no point having nuclear weapons if you are not prepared to fire them." Elizabeth Cowley

### 6.00am GMTV (4076844)

9.25am Halfway across the Galaxy and Turn Left (760115)

9.50 Hope and Gloria (5926196)

10.20 ITN News (5242554)

10.25 Regional News (5241251)

10.30 Lady Boss. The first of a two-part serial based on the novel by Jackie Collins (40682196)

12.20pm Regional News (1629028)

12.30 ITN Lunchtime News (Teletext) (6527047)

12.55 Shortland Street (8602738) 1.25 Coronation Street (8367338) 2.00 Home and Away (87363202)

2.25 FILM: A Town Torn Apart (1992). The conclusion of yesterday's film. Directed by Daniel Petrie (9612270)

3.20 ITN News (1715952)

3.25 Regional News (1718863)

3.30 The Riddlers (3110019) 3.40 Wizards (325844) 3.50 Moby's Gang (9510955)

4.05 Animaniacs. Superior animation (2016680) 4.20 Blazing Dragons (201825) 4.45 The Scoop (1266399)

5.10 A Country Practice (5633863)

5.40 ITN Early Evening News (Teletext) (185457)

6.00 Home and Away (Teletext) (665688)

6.25 Regional News (523592)

7.00 Emmerdale. Faye is rescued by the Dingles (Teletext) (s) (7775)

7.30 The Big Story. In the wake of the Dunblane tragedy, the results of a countrywide investigation are revealed, which shows that there are many mentally ill and unstable people licensed to carry guns in Britain (134)

8.00 The Bill: Minding. A dotting parent arouses London's and Keane's suspicions (9573)

8.30 The Freddie Starr Show. Comedy does not come any broader (Teletext) (8080)

9.00 Heartbeat: Endangered Species. A hit and run incident leads Nick to discover a darker side of country life (s) (7689)

10.00 ITN News at Ten (Teletext) (49573)

10.30 Regional News (95405)

10.40 Tin's Legacy. A focus on Tim Goggs, who died a hero trying to save a mine-clearing team trapped in a burning tank in Afghanistan (93496)

11.00 Bodies of Evidence (s) (569383)

12.35am Cue the Music: The Commitments (s) (4221413)

1.35 Not Fade Away (s) (843719)

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## WATER SKIING 38

Britons take a giant leap for disabled sport

## SPORT

THURSDAY AUGUST 15 1996

## RACING 39

Ireland's champion trainer still expanding his horizons



## French pair head for Highbury

## Arsenal sign two but wait for Wenger

By ROB HUGHES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

CURIOUSER and curiousest grows the turmoil around Arsenal. Yesterday, the club signed two French Legionnaires, midfield players, yet no one around Highbury was able to confirm that the supposed general, the coach Arsene Wenger, would indeed be coming to manage the team, the club, and the dire rebuilding process.

Indeed, having dismissed Bruce Rioch on Monday, Arsenal now say that they will not have his replacement installed before the FA Carling Premiership kick-off against West Ham United on Saturday. Instead, they introduced Remi Garde, 30, from Strasbourg, who was free to decide his future under the Bosman ruling, having reached the end of his contract. Potentially more exciting is Patrick Vieira, also French and, at 20, at least with his best decade ahead of him.

However, Vieira is still a curious acquisition. He surprised all of France when, at 19, he was plucked out of Cannes to sign a 4½-year contract with the all-powerful AC Milan. A change of manager in Milan, barely a game in a year for Vieira, and suddenly eight billion lire (just under £3.5 million) secures for Arsenal his potential right on the deadline for the club to sign him and Garde to meet Uefa requirements for European competition this season.

Vieira had played 50 times for Cannes, and certainly has much talked-about potential. He is big, black, and would have played for France at the Olympics this summer but for injury. He was born in Senegal in June 1976. He is almost 6ft 3in, travels on a French passport, and Milan signed him in good faith as "the new Marcel Desailly". Last November they gave him a contract worth more than £3 million to last until the end of the century. They paid the same transfer fee that Arsenal have agreed, but Vieira,

among such exalted company in Milan, was given only two league games and one Coppa Italia tie.

So who, at Highbury, could have known that he may be a fine capture, given that the one headline he drew during a season in Italy was as a passenger in a car driven by George Weah, the world player of the year, which rolled and almost killed the pair of them on a weekend off?

Of course, it has to be Wenger. The mark of this educated man is that, through his coaching at Monaco, he could spot the talents in players such as Weah — indeed in Glenn Hoddle — and nurture those talents where others failed to do so.

So what holds back the announcement that the Frenchman will be at Arsenal to manage the French players who, if they can pass the ball with any imagination at all, will be the first signs of creative improvement in a team growing so old and so stagnant. It would appear that Arsenal are waiting for Wenger to extricate himself from his obligation as the £700,000-a-year trainer to Nagoya Grampus Eight.

This, of course, may be Arsenal doing things properly. The old-Etonian history of the club demands that they are not seen to poach another club's manager, especially one from a fledgling league such as that in Japan.

There remains some explaining to do on the home front. Peter Hill-Wood, the Arsenal chairman, while still neither confirming nor denying that they have their man, said yesterday: "The new manager has to be a first-class coach, someone to communicate with the players and on the board. Football has gone international in recent seasons and that is the route we will continue to follow."

Of the departed Rioch, Hill-Wood said: "He hardly talked to us. We did not know what was going on or what his thoughts were."

Really? Communication is a two-way process. Could it be that Arsenal, by repute one of the most accomplished clubs in the world, had not known of their communication problem, or had suddenly found it so insufferable just five days before the new season?

Wenger will be a communicator all right. He comes, if that is not too presumptuous, highly recommended by the world-class players whom he has guided along the way. His education, with a degree in economics, would surely ease him into a boardroom accustomed to City talk.

Yet, the mathematics of his challenge would seem extreme. Eight players — Dixon, Winterburn, Bould, Unghian, Platt, Keown, Wright and, by October, Adams — are 30 or more. Garde is now another one and French sources say that his form over the past two seasons has dipped, either with age or with disaffection in Strasbourg.

Added to all of this, Wenger, if and when he hits London, will face the everyday Highbury story of taking care of the vulnerabilities in Paul Merson. The 28-year-old, still with the potential to be the kind of flair player Wenger can work with, has been talking rather too much while the club is between managers.

"You'll never know how near I came to packing it in last week," Merson reportedly said. His problem was not a relapse into drink or drugs, but that he had missed a session with his counsellors.

The manager, the now departed Rioch, put Merson straight, but it is indicative of the task facing whoever grapples with Arsenal Football Club that players, seemingly directors, and supporters are all in a state of dependency. The retreat from Japan cannot come soon enough.



Habib, of Leicestershire, leaps to avoid a fierce drive by Sohail, of Pakistan, at Grace Road yesterday. Report, page 42. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

## Masterkova shatters mile record

FROM DAVID POWELL  
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT  
IN ZURICH

SVETLANA MASTERKOVA, one of three athletes who left the Atlanta Olympics with two individual gold medals, last night set the first women's world record of the season. More than that, she achieved it in her first race over a mile.

Masterkova took more than three seconds off the record, which had stood for seven years. In Atlanta, her 800/1500 metres double went relatively unheralded compared with the 200/400 metres victories of Michael Johnson and Marie-José Pérec. However, here she left the sport in no doubt about her outstanding talent.

She set the task in the manner of Noureddine Morceli, relying on a pace-maker to stretch her away from the field in the first lap, then taking up the running for a solo effort during the last 660 yards. Lyudmila Borisova, Masterkova's fellow Russian, took them through 440 yards in what appeared to be a suicidal 61.91 seconds.

However, on the second lap, Borisova toned down the pace, taking her compatriot through 880 yards in 2min 06.66sec. At the end of the back straight on the third lap, Borisova stood aside and Masterkova reached the bell in 3:12.61.

Masterkova picked up her pace down the back straight and around the top bend and, though she slowed in the

home straight, she crossed the line in 4:12.56. The record, which had been held by Paula Ivan since 1989, was 4:15.61.

Masterkova received a \$50,000 (about £35,000) bonus and a kilogram of gold, worth \$12,000, for her world record.

Jonathan Ridgeon rejected the greater financial rewards of running in the 400 metres hurdles A race to appear, by choice, in the B race instead, and reaped the benefit on the clock — if not in the pocket. Ridgeon opted for lane eight in the support event in preference to the tight bend and built-up curb he would have had to negotiate running in lane one in the main race.

Ridgeon's reward was the fastest time of his comeback

and almost a personal best. He finished a close second to Eric Thomas, of the United States, recording 48.79sec compared with the winner's 48.69.

The silver medal-winner in the sprint hurdles at the 1987 world championships, Ridgeon, now 29, is the all-time British No 4 over the one-lap hurdles. Only Kriss Akabusi, David Hemery and Alan Pascoe have run quicker than the 48.73sec that Ridgeon clocked in 1992.

Ridgeon retired after the World Cup in 1992, his career seemingly brought to an end by Achilles tendon troubles. However, this year, after four operations, he returned to competition, initially having resumed running mainly to keep fit.

Typical of his luck, he enjoyed uninterrupted training and racing until just before the Olympics, when he strained a calf. After his first round, he was eliminated. "It was 50-50 whether I was going to run so what I am doing here, frustratingly, is what I thought I would have achieved at the Games," Ridgeon said.

Surprisingly, for an athlete who has run 24 hurdles races already this season, Ridgeon added: "I have got a lot more running in me. When I came back this season, I had no idea what time to expect. Since I started training again I have had only one problem and it just happened to be in the week of the Olympics."



Jarrett: poor season

## Curric and Quinn move back into Premiership spotlight

By PETER BALL

ASTON VILLA and Sunderland made the most significant moves on a busy day of transfer activity yesterday. Villa agreed a fee of £4 million with Bolton Wanderers for Sasa Curric while Niall Quinn renewed his working relationship with Peter Reid, the Sunderland manager, in signing from Manchester City. Meanwhile, Queens Park Rangers, relegated from the FA Carling Premiership along with Bolton and City, warned Leeds United off their prize asset, Trevor Sinclair.

Villa's capture of Curric, the Yugoslavia midfielder player, represents a club record fee. "It's an incredible sum," Brian Little, the Villa manager, said, "but Sasa is one of a group of three or four players whom I have always seen as potential Aston Villa players."

"I've spoken to Bolton on and off for six or eight months about him. It's one of those

things where you wait for the phone call, and the go-ahead has been given."

With his skill and eagerness to run at defenders, Curric quickly became a hero at Burnden Park but relegation made his departure look inevitable. He will have to wait for a new work permit and will miss the start of the season.

Quinn came cheaper, Sunderland finally agreeing to meet Manchester City's asking price of £1.3 million after stalling for some weeks. Quinn had still to agree his personal terms last night, but he was delighted to move back into the Premiership, particularly to work with Reid. "I had my best spell under Peter at Maine Road," Quinn said yesterday. "I said when he was sacked there that he will be a great manager, and I'm looking forward to playing for him again."

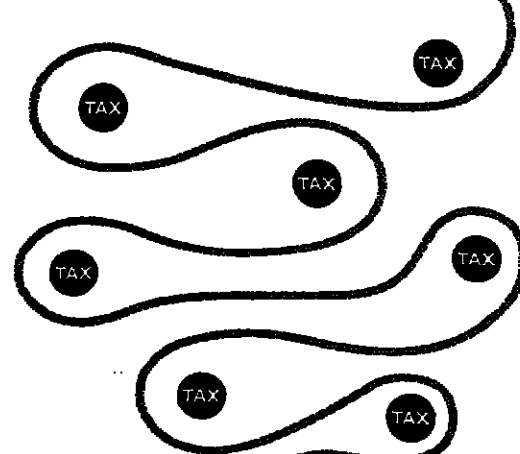
"It's a huge career move for

me. I'd been trying to ignore all the hype and the buzz of the new Premiership season because I was a bit jealous, and it's thrilling to be given the chance to play up there again."

City meanwhile are giving a trial to the unlikely-named Elvis Brankovic, a member of the Croatia squad in the European championship. Brankovic, whose mother was a Presley rather than a Costello fan, is a tall central defender who is out of contract after ending his spell with Munich 1860.

One transfer apparently not going through is that of Sinclair to Leeds. "I'm sick of hearing speculation about Trevor," Clive Berlin, Rangers' chief executive, said. "I've written to Leeds asking them to desist from publicly speculating about our players, and if they continue to do so, we'll report them to the FA."

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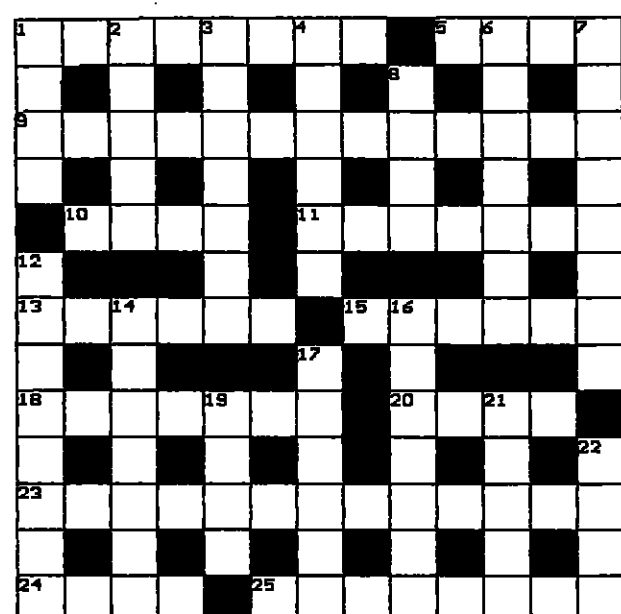
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## TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 861 in association with  
BRITISH MIDLAND



## ACROSS

- 1 Old fire-retardant (8)
- 2 Lorry diesel fuel (4)
- 3 Pedestrian right-of-way (5,8)
- 10 Greenish-blue; sounds like plant shoot (4)
- 11 Whip a harasser (7)
- 12 Trifling (6)
- 15 Entrust; peripatetic (6)
- 18 Patron saint of music (7)
- 20 Sprint; panache (4)
- 23 Retirement income (3,3,7)
- 24 Meat-substitute bean (4)
- 25 Sweet on stick (8)

## DOWN

- 1 Timber-dressing tool (4)
- 2 Policeman (slang) (5)
- 3 Nut-adjusting tool (7)
- 4 Female giant (6)
- 6 Concise witicism (7)
- 7 Little picture, sketch (8)
- 8 Capital of Norway (4)
- 12 Deceptively plausible (8)
- 14 With clarity (7)
- 16 Service book; number like first (7)
- 17 Ancient poetess of Lesbos (6)
- 19 Company emblem (4)
- 21 Be perfunctory (5)
- 22 Break cleanly; speak irritably (4)

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Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6886, London E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Wednesday.

Name/Address .....

## SOLUTION TO NO 860

ACROSS: 1 Fastidious 9 Amateur 10 Sofia 11 Skye 12 Waterloo 14 Normal 15 Bedouin 18 Militant 20 Cruz 22 Arson 23 Cordian 24 Short-range

DOWN: 2 Anew 3 Thread 4 Dishevel 5 Offal 6 Shadow-boxing 7 Ways and means 8 Lawyer 13 Marinet 16 Adroit 17 Enigma 19 Lasso 21 Drug



In today's Times a four-page entry guide for Interactive Team Football



# New poaching of Kenya elephants provokes outrage

FROM SAM KILEY IN NAIROBI

CONSERVATIONISTS yesterday reacted with outrage to an upsurge in illegal hunting and poaching of semi-tame elephants from Amboseli National Park in Kenya. They also condemned Dr David Western, the director of Kenya Wildlife Services, for an "inadequate response" to the problem.

The latest victim was discovered less than a mile inside Tanzania yesterday as Kenya Wildlife Services held a celebration to mark its fiftieth anniversary. Jake, who was 31, was shot dead and his tusks were removed. Footprints leading from the carcass indicated that he had been shot by local poachers.

Another elephant, identified as Beach Ball, was found dead close to the Amboseli park headquarters two days before. The increase in the killing of Amboseli's big tuskers, some of which are more than 50 years old and have been

studied at close quarters for 25 years, has taken place despite a hunting ban on elephants in an eight-mile-wide buffer zone in Tanzania. The zone, which runs along Amboseli's borders, was set up after the unorthodox hunting of five elderly bulls was exposed by *The Times* in 1994. The elephants, which were accustomed to people, were slaughtered by white professional hunters, charging \$20,000 (£12,900) a kill.

Since then, up to 11 other male elephants have been killed, eight of them in the past six weeks, and two others are missing. Three females, Qarla, Genette and Zazana, are also assumed to have been killed as their calves are being fostered by other females. The deaths of matriarchs is particularly worrying, researchers say, because they teach younger animals how to find water and food.

The news of the killings has

incensed conservationists in Kenya. Many blame Dr Western for reacting too slowly to the problem.

His predecessor, Dr Richard Leakey, condemned Dr Western. "I am extremely disappointed and angry about this."

"For millions of shillings to be budgeted for the fiftieth anniversary celebrations while field staff are inadequately resourced is outrageous. These bulls are very important, not only scientifically, but because they are the last of the really big tuskers that people can come to see in East Africa," said Dr Leakey.

He said that the wildlife service had kept details of the Amboseli elephant killings and poaching elsewhere "secret, like in the worst days of poaching in Kenya."

Senior wardens at the wildlife service headquarters did not appear to have heard about the latest killings yesterday.



Beach Ball, right, the elephant found dead at the hands of poachers two days ago, with Lexi, another member of the Amboseli park herd

Jake's carcass was discovered by a researcher from the Save the Elephant charity. Iain Douglas Hamilton, its director, said that the tuskers often wandered into Tanzania in search of food before the mating season.

"These killings are totally illegal and some look like they

have been carried out by professional hunters," he said. Other sources said there had been reports of a Masai poacher operating on land next to Amboseli who had been tracked by rangers with the wildlife service's anti-poaching unit.

Dr Cynthia Moss, whose

film *Echo of the Elephants: The Next Generation* helped to transform thinking about the animals, said the death of Beach Ball had caused her great grief. "He was one of my favourite elephants," she said. One of Dr Moss's revelations was that elephants "mourn" their dead.

She said Beach Ball, who was known locally as *Mjomba*, the Swahili word for uncle, was so tame that children could approach him. "They would roll tyres towards him, and he would roll them back," she said. British conservationists were dismayed yesterday by

news of the renewed poaching. Sir David Attenborough said: "If these elephants can be poached, then what chance is there for those less protected?" "They are the most famous elephants, known to millions of people through television programmes. It is dismal news."



Hashimoto: sent funds to Philippine women

## Apology by Japan to war sex slaves

FROM ROBERT WHYMAN IN TOKYO AND ABBY TAN IN MANILA

JAPAN'S Prime Minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto, yesterday expressed his country's remorse for degrading Asian women by forcing them into sexual slavery for Japanese soldiers before and during the Second World War.

In a letter delivered to former sex slaves in the Philippines, together with compensation money, Mr Hashimoto admitted the involvement of the former Japanese Imperial Army in setting up brothels for troops advancing across Asia. Historians estimate that up to 200,000 women, mostly from the Korean peninsula, were forced into sexual servitude.

Three hundred surviving "comfort women", as they are known in Japan, are being offered two million yen (£12,000) each from a nominally private fund set up by the Government. Tokyo is afraid that direct government compensation would unleash a flood of claims from other victims of Japan's wartime aggression, including thousands of forced labourers and prisoners of war.

Some former sex slaves in South Korea, Taiwan and the Philippines are reluctant to accept the money, insisting on direct compensation from the Japanese Government.

The first three payments were made yesterday, on the eve of the 51st anniversary of Japan's surrender in the war. Makiko Arima, vice-president of the Asian Women's Fund of Japan, handed the money to Maria Rosa Henson, 68, Rufina Fernandez, 69, and Atanacia Cortes, 73, at a ceremony in a Manila hotel. The Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines, Hiroyuki Yoshida, gave them copies of Mr Hashimoto's letter - the most contrite apology from Japan to the sex slaves so far.

## WORLD SUMMARY

### India halts progress on nuclear ban

Geneva: India has prevented the forwarding of a global nuclear test-ban treaty to the full Conference on Disarmament, Western diplomats said.

Asked after a closed committee meeting if the Indian representative had said she could not accept transmission of the text, Stephen Ledogar, of America said: "Yes, they did, just as they had last night in the informal meeting."

Arundhati Ghose, the Indian delegate, made no immediate comment after leaving the committee meeting, chaired by Jaap Ramaker, of The Netherlands. The committee was reconvening last night to draft its report. (Reuters)

### Israel to control Hebron security

Jerusalem: Israel is planning to retain security control over the West Bank city of Hebron, effectively declaring that the Palestinians cannot be trusted to protect the town's minority Jewish population numbering about 400 (Ross Dunn writes). The plan, due to be presented to the Government this week, would require the rewriting of a peace accord signed with the Palestine Liberation Organisation which Binyamin Netanyahu, the right-wing Israeli Prime Minister, had promised to uphold.

### Kitchen hand in poisons arrest

Bombay: A young kitchen helper was arrested yesterday in India's worst case of food poisoning as the death toll mounted to 46, with nine patients dying in Bombay hospitals after battling for life for nearly a week. At least 45 others are in serious condition. Blood samples of victims, who suffered giddiness, aches and vomiting, are being analysed in London. Seeds of a white *Datura* (thorn apple) weed are suspected. (Reuters)

### Sacked minister at ANC hearing

Johannesburg: In the biggest crisis the African National Congress has faced since taking power, Bantu Holomisa, the sacked Environment Minister, appeared before a disciplinary hearing to answer charges linked to corruption allegations against senior ANC leaders (Inigo Gilmore writes). If found guilty, he is likely to be expelled or suspended from the ANC.

## Karachi march fired on

FROM ZAHID HUSSAIN IN KARACHI

GUNMEN killed at least 12 people and wounded 11 when they opened fire on an Independence Day rally organised by a Sunni Muslim organisation in Karachi's New Town district yesterday.

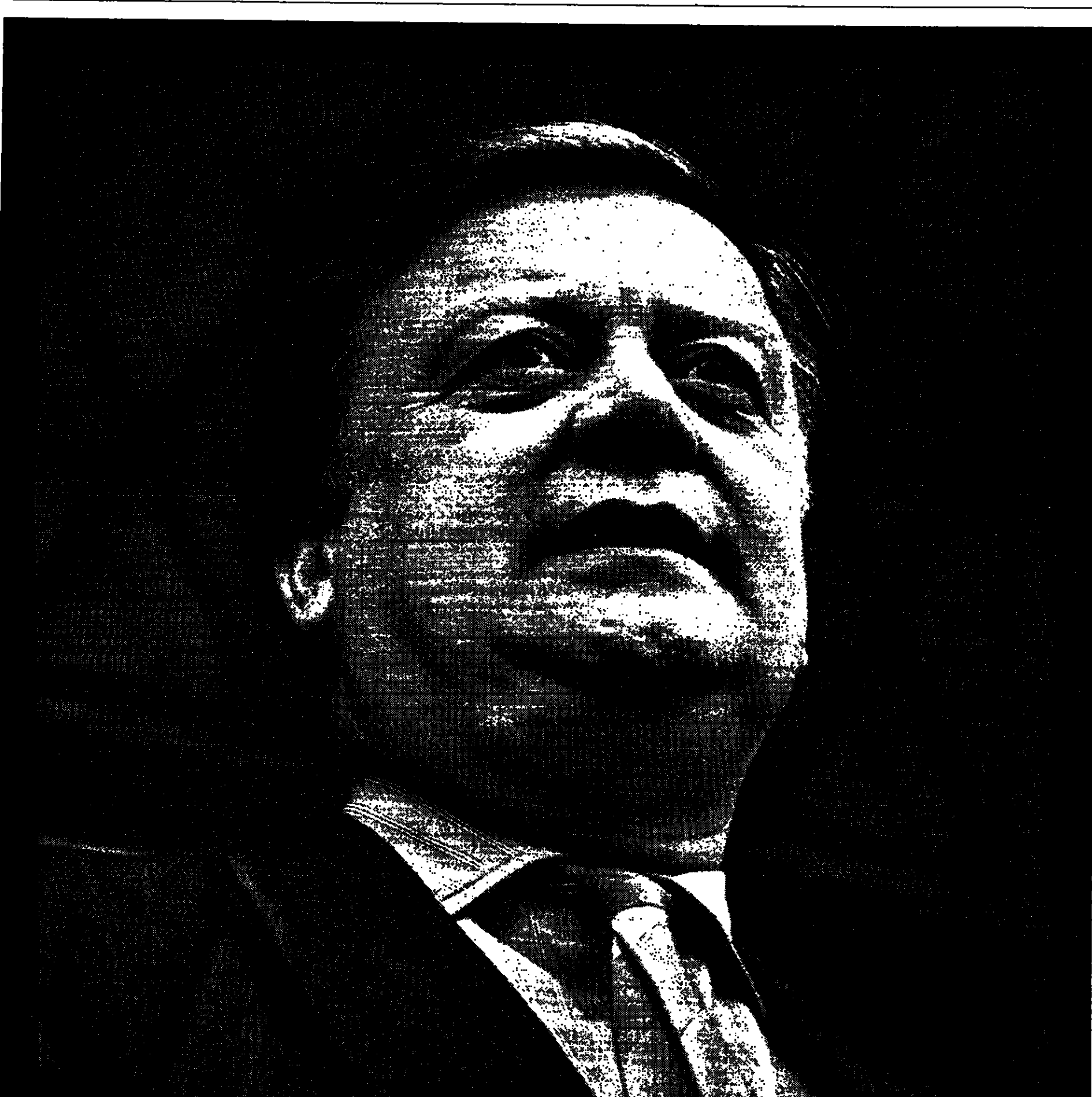
More than 300 marchers were attacked with machine-guns in front of a mosque. Police said the assailants were riding on two cars.

The rally was organised by Sipah-e-Shaba (Soldiers of the

Prophet Muhammad) to celebrate the 49th anniversary of Pakistan's independence.

Police suspect that a rival Shia Muslim group, Dhirk Shia, was involved in the attack, which was apparently carried out to avenge the murder of two Shia Muslims by Sipah-e-Shaba in Pakistan's western province of Punjab last week.

The groups have been locked in bloody street wars in Pakistan for the last few years, resulting in hundreds of deaths.



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**Dr Thomas Stuttford** on the latest thinking on baby delivery; plus the difficulties of predicting the behaviour of former psychiatric patients, fresh anxiety over food poisoning, a standardised approach to asthma, and a new drive to vaccinate children

## How mums can pass the tennis test

In the introduction to this week's *Woman's Hour* programme on confinements, a hospital delivery was portrayed as a dehumanising experience, with the conduct of the labour determined by high-tech machinery.

In contrast, it implied that the patients who elected to stay at home would have their babies easily and safely and be surrounded by loving relatives. Would that this was so. A normal delivery can only be diagnosed in retrospect and the truth is that in Britain the safest place for the baby and mother is a well-run hospital labour ward.

In the general practice where I started the nearest major hospital was 20 miles away, but even so 80 per cent of babies were booked for delivery at home. Although we made an inspired guess and weeded out those mothers who obviously were at high risk, neither I nor the midwife knew what would happen until the labour was over.

Many of our patients lived in outlying villages. As it would take too long to get to them in the event of a disaster occurring in the later stages of labour, I spent many nights sleeping on the sofas in the sitting-room, for once at the ready, while the woman went through the early stages of

labour upstairs. As the Radio 4 programme implied, home deliveries — once the baby was born and crying — were often uproarious family occasions. But not all of them were conducted in total harmony.

On one occasion a baby showed signs of distress which made delivery a matter of urgency, but the mother was too upset to keep still to have the necessary local anaesthetic block before the forceps could be applied. Before I could stop him, the husband took command. He delivered a quick left and right which could not disgrace Mohammed Ali and thereafter the woman lay very still. The baby was delivered safely.

The primary objective of any delivery must be that it should be achieved without cost to the mother's health and that the baby should be healthy. Standards are forever increasing and, not surprisingly, women are no longer happy to have survived. Now they expect to be as fit and well as they were before they became pregnant.

Mr Stuart Stanton, of St Georges Hospital, London, is one of a new breed of gynaecologists. He is a consultant urogynaecologist, a gynaecologist who makes a speciality of dealing with bladder and rectal problems. The sub-speciality is assured of a

ready supply of patients, for research at St Georges has shown that 70 per cent of women are still incontinent of urine three months after delivery of a baby and 4 per cent are incontinent of faeces.

The situation improves during subsequent months but relapse occurs later and if the condition is untreated about a third of women who have had children will have some stress incontinence when, for instance, playing tennis, when they are older.

The origins of the problem of incontinence after delivery lies in the damage done to the woman's pelvic floor during labour. The pelvic floor is an efficient shelf of muscles that supports the bladder, uterus, vagina, and rectum. During a difficult delivery the nerves to these muscles can be damaged and the resulting injury may cause lasting social inconvenience.

Research workers at St Georges are now investigating the possibility which women have pelvic floors which are likely to suffer in labour. It is hoped that the research will make it possible to offer those who are at greatest risk during natural labour an alternative form of delivery, which will spare the nerves to the pelvic floor.

At St Georges the clinic is run jointly by Mr Stanton and



Damage done in labour can cause some mothers to have stress incontinence when playing tennis

Mr Devinder Kumar, a rectum surgeon, and they see patients together while they decide on the best forms of treatment. Results in those patients who have needed surgery are most encouraging. Ninety per cent of the women overcome their incontinence and even 15 years later 80 per cent are still symptom-free and enjoying their tennis.

Despite the disadvantages of Caesarean section, a re-

search study shows that many gynaecologists when pregnant opt for it without medical justification. In Mr Stanton's opinion this is partly the result of anxiety over incontinence. He hopes that when all the research at St Georges is complete it will only be those who have a demonstrable risk of pelvic floor trouble who will choose to have surgery, and the rest will entrust themselves to the midwives.

### Asthma at a snail's pace

ASTHMA can be induced by a wide variety of agents. One of the most common is the housemite, a microscopic organism which lives in the carpets, curtains and blankets of most modern, well-heated houses.

Recent research in Italy has shown that many people whose asthma attacks are induced by the housemite may also suffer if they eat a hearty meal of snails. Careful immunological studies have suggested that it is the housemite which sensitises gourmets to snails. Investigations have not shown that being allergic to snails necessarily makes people sensitive to the housemite.

THE way to treat asthma is now being standardised in Britain. As a result the number of deaths from acute attacks is falling, although the number of patients with the disease is on the increase.

One source of continuing disaster has been highlighted recently by chest physicians. There has been doubt about the length of time the patient, who has had a serious attack of asthma, should continue to take the oral steroids prescribed to control it. Many doctors only give them for seven days, but the general view is that a 14-day course is not only more effective, but much safer in the long term.

The British Thoracic Association is also expected to publish new recommendations on the treatment of asthma in the near future. It is predicted that they will suggest treatment of an acute attack of asthma with inhaled steroids should start with a high dosage, and thereafter be reduced once control of the attack is achieved.

THE campaign to rid the country of measles, mumps and German measles (rubella), is proving to be very effective. Despite the success of the immunisation programme, *Pulse* magazine reports that the Department of Health still fears a possibility of a build-up in susceptible children between the ages of four and six, which could lead to an epidemic.

### Measles campaign

To prevent this from happening, an amended programme of MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) is to start this autumn. Family doctors will be encouraged to give a second dose of MMR to pre-school children of the appro-

priate age, not immunised in the campaign of 1994. Side effects from the injections are comparatively rare and only occasionally have serious consequences been reported. On the other hand, measles can be lethal and frequently resulted in lasting disability. Mumps can cause lifelong infertility, and rubella was responsible for many foetal abnormalities.

### Danger signs of violence in the disturbed



THE death of the Rev Christopher Gray in Liverpool has already produced the predictable demands that people who are exposed to life in Britain's inner cities should have training in the best way to deal with a potentially violent person. Mr Gray's death coincided with a report in the *British Medical Journal* on the ways in which potential violence in former psychiatric patients may be predicted.

The study into violent former in-patients cost £4.5 million and was conducted in the United States. In the survey, the former patients, together with somebody with whom they were in frequent contact, usually a member of the family, was questioned every ten weeks about any incidents.

The 1,000 patients, between the ages of 14 and 40, were studied for a year, and as well as talking to the patient, researchers also interviewed the police, and both police and hospital records were checked.

IT WAS found that when patients did relapse into violent behaviour it was usually within the first month after their discharge from hospital. Regardless of the mental disorder that had necessitated treatment originally, it was found that the tendency to violence was quadrupled by taking drugs or alcohol. Forty per cent of the patients studied, whatever their psychiatric disease, had a problem of drug or alcohol dependence.

The most obvious danger signs of trouble ahead in a former patient were an inability to settle back in the community, a restlessness with frequent changes of address, a history of having an impulsive character, and a tendency to have violent fantasies.

Although the survey has not uncovered any dramatic new symptoms, which would lead those who are caring for discharged patients to expect a violent breakdown, it has emphasised and itemised the factors that often precede outbreaks of violence.

## Fears of botulism spread to nursery

TO an older generation the diagnosis of botulism has a sinister ring. The organism, *Clostridium botulinum*, was responsible for the production of the neurotoxin that paralysed the nervous system after deep, contaminating wounds on the Western Front in the First World War. During the 1934-1945 war it became a cause of anxiety on the home front when tins of food, which had been hoarded, became contaminated if the meat or fish that they contained had been infected with *Clostridium botulinum*.

Food poisoning in infants has led to a ban on honey for babies

In food-borne botulism, the effects of damage to the central nervous system are preceded by vomiting, diarrhoea and severe abdominal pain. Botulism isn't confined to those serving in a battle zone, or those who have just eaten meat from a rusting tin. A famous outbreak occurred in Scotland during the 1920s

after duck pâté had become infected. In 1978 there was another epidemic in Britain, which had been caused by contaminated tinned salmon. In America home-canned vegetables are the usual culprits behind an outbreak, whereas on the Continent it is sausages that are reviewed with criticism. The term botulism is derived from the Latin for a sausage, *botulus*, so it seems that even the advancing legionsnaires had to contend with the problem.

Anxieties about botulism have now spread to the nursery. Usually food-borne botulism is related to the ingestion of toxins that have already been produced by the organism. However, in one group of children, infants under a year, the guts are capable of acting as a medium, which is suitable for the spores to germinate, after which the *Clostridium botulinum* multiplies until it colonises the gut. In these children, the attack isn't because they have ingested the toxin but is a consequence of the production of it in their guts, which is then absorbed.

Infant botulism is very rare, particularly in Britain but it is rather more common in America. In America a common cause of infant botulism is from spores that have been ingested with honey. As a consequence of the American cases, Sir Kenneth Calman, the Chief Medical Officer of Health, has written to all doctors to warn them of this unlikely hazard to infant life. Although there has been no proven case in Britain of honey causing infantile botulism it is a potentially serious health risk.

Therefore the British Honey Importers and Packers Association have joined the Department of Health to issue a joint recommendation that babies under a year shouldn't be given any. Honey for tea might have been an admirable treat in Grantchester but in future any nanny will have to reserve it for her older children, and for adults, whose guts have matured and in whom the spores of *Clostridium botulinum* have no chance of surviving.



Honey can be a health risk for children under a year

## THE SUNDAY TIMES

### HARDCORE FAWN

The Marquesa, Hello! magazine's Mrs Fix-it, reveals all



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# Does destiny's destination still matter?

Magnus Linklater says that Scots should care about their symbols of nationhood — and where they lie

It was, said John Major when he announced it, a symbolic gesture of the greatest significance. The return to Scotland of the Stone of Destiny from its ancient resting place beneath the Coronation Chair in Westminster Abbey would restore this "most ancient symbol of Scottish kingship... to its historic homeland". The stone, he said, "had a special place in the hearts of Scots".

The reaction among the Scots themselves was curiously flat. The Prime Minister's motives were subjected to some sceptical analysis; the odd political insult was traded; even the welcoming remarks came across in that rather dismissive Scottish manner which actually means: "What took you so long?"

Still, as Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, said, it was an opportunity for the people themselves to express their views on where they wanted this emblem of Scottish nationhood to have its final resting place. He invited submissions. This week marks the deadline, and the Scottish Office has been sifting through the answers. There has not, it seems, been an overwhelming response. Various worthy organisations have had their say, the odd peer of the realm has chipped in with suggestions, the Historiographer Royal has pronounced, and there has been a scattering of views, some eccentric, some sensible, from private citizens — but not that many. Compared to the hysteria that greeted its theft from Westminster Abbey in 1950, the reaction has been apathetic at best. For a piece of rock tinged with the blood of Scottish warriors down the ages, it has been a definite anti-climax.

Perhaps we have lost faith in symbols. I have yet to hear that swords have leapt from their scabbards to prevent the latest sacrilege, namely a plan to dig up the heart of Robert the Bruce from his burial place in Melrose Abbey. The idea is to test the lead casket in which it was interred to see whether it is authentic. Quite where this will get us is unclear.

I cannot help feeling that Sir James, the Black Douglas, who out the heart from Bruce's body in 1329 and set off on a pilgrimage to take it to the Holy Land, would not have been best pleased. "Now pass thou onward as thou wert wont, and Douglas will follow or die!" he cried as he hurled the heart and its casket into the thick of the battle before being cut down by a Moorish army in Castle. He said nothing about wanting Historic Scotland to dig it up again once it had been finally buried.

Here again, I am afraid to report, apathy appears to hold sway, although we must watch the letters pages of *The Scotsman*, where Scottish swords are still occasionally unsheathed.

But if the symbols of past struggles no longer excite us, what does? For most people, the concept of kingship, which both stone and heart repre-

sent, has been drained of meaning, despite the Prime Minister's claims. Nationalists in Scotland are embarrassed by it. Tories tiptoe gingerly around it; the fact that Labour is being asked by the Fabian Society to review the monarchy as "the last taboo", and to invite Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber to compose a new national anthem, suggests that it may no longer be taken seriously by the party which could form the next government.

All this would have troubled Walter Bagehot, who wrote that the constitution could hold the people together only if it contained two elements: "First, those which excite and preserve the reverence of the population — the dignified parts, if I may so call them; and next the efficient parts — those by which it, in fact, works and rules." It seems as if the dignified parts are in need of some attention, to say nothing of the efficient parts. So perhaps the whole edifice really may be crumbling at last.

A better explanation, however, is the one suggested by Sir David Steel, when he said that most people in Scotland "want not just the symbol but the substance of the return of democratic control". Mr Major's announcement, intended as an acknowledgment of Scottish aspirations, was dropped into a political vacuum. A relic, wholly associated with the exercise of kingly power, was being returned to a nation which no longer exercises that power, or anything like it. Since it came unaccompanied by political change, it was widely seen as an empty gesture, not to say a piece of political opportunism.

That does not mean, however, that it should simply be ignored. The stone is important, as any truly historic relic is, and its fate should excite interest, passion even. It is not just a king's seat, it represents the continuity of a nation, a memorial to its past, and an emblem for its future achievements.

The stone deserves a hallowed place, but one that is independent of religious factions. My own proposal is Edinburgh Castle, as others have suggested, but not the room where the Scottish regalia are stored. That is a tourist trap, stage-set and shorn of Bagehot's "reverence" — a sort of "crown jewels experience".

Instead, it should go to the great National War Memorial in the castle, a building dedicated not just to Scotland's war dead, but to all its people. It is not a chapel, but it has great dignity and an almost palpable sense of Scotland's martial past. Through its floor appears the living rock, and it is a physical part of the Palace Close.

If destiny means anything, this is where the stone should be — almost literally linked to Scotland's history.

As for Bruce's heart: leave it alone.

Inner-city vicars like Father Gray are too valuable to be driven out by violence, says Robert Runcie

English people have only the most blurred notions of ecclesiastical structures and titles; but they do generally recognise "the vicar" as "someone who does things on behalf of others". There is something affectionate about "Hello, Vicar." There is something affirming about "Now we have a lady vicar." "Murder of a vicar outside his church" was a headline that deeply shocked us, touching off many an editorial or *Thought for the Day*.

There is a great deal of talk about "care in the community", but vicars are among the few people professionally concerned about it who actually live in their community. For understandable reasons, doctors, teachers, nurses, social workers tend to commute. The urban vicarage continues to be a sanctuary in a hostile world. If there is no one to fall back on, there is always the vicar. Here is rare continuity with the Benedictine traditions of *stabilitas* and hospitality which gave Christian life in this country its original shape. *Stabilitas* refers to the one who remains and who is there to serve a community. Hospitality reminds us of a central thrust of the Christian Gospel.

The idea is hard to sustain. It makes heavy demands, but it makes the vicar more accessible than those many public officials who can rarely be met face to face and then only by appointment and in office hours. I

recall two visits I made in the 1980s: one to a mining village during the miners' strike and one to a deprived inner-city area in Liverpool. During both I was encouraged by the extraordinarily intimate connection between the vicar and the mixed bag of parishioners that I met. Here was the Church's ministry at its best: unpublishable, unrecorded, but so exceedingly important. For it seems to me that beneath the surface of the most placid-seeming parish or district there is always a hidden ferment. Individuals and families are continually being threatened or uplifted, disappointed or delighted over matters which are of importance to them — from the birth of a child to the death of a parent, from a quarrel with a neighbour to a promotion at work, from the onset or cure of illness to the loss or finding of a job.

Such personal matters are the very stuff and substance of human concern, and in the response of people to

them there is always (implicitly or explicitly) a slight shift in their religious attitude — a slight movement either towards or away from God. The vicar who is close enough to many of these points and times of sensitivity, and who is available and attentive when and where they occur, does a work of extreme importance. For it is widely believed (rightly or wrongly) that the attitude of a vicar is a living symbol — faint and imperfect but the only living symbol we have — of the attitude of God Himself. Therefore his presence and attentiveness, or his absence and seeming indifference, is likely to affect a person at a deep level at such times of acute sensitivity. The movement of a human soul or a whole human family towards or away from God may well be determined by the "minute particular" of whether the vicar calls or does not call on a parishioner who is gravely ill, whether

he is accessible or not to an unhappy teenager or a proud parent. Much of the typical work of vicars is too particular to be the subject of general discussion and too intimate to be made known in books or journals or investigated by research students. So the names of outstanding vicars tend to be less well known than those who work in the academic field or become bishops. But the effect and influence of their work is, I dare to say, much deeper. For the attitude of most people to God is determined, for good or ill, not by general ideas or intellectual formulations, but by concrete signs and evidences of the nearness of God in these commonplace yet sensitive situations.

Increasingly, we look for people of character to undertake such a vocation. We look first for faith, and with it faithfulness, the capacity to go on when the going gets tough. We look for evidence of a life of prayer, because prayer is required of a vicar,

both to sustain the loneliness of the job and as a sign of the way he is pointing others. We look for commitment to people, to console the strong and the weak, the gifted and the deprived. We look for a willingness to live sacrificially: to choose the less attractive job, to make do with a not very appealing income, to work long hours without obvious reward. We look for those who can inspire without domineering, whose model is that of the good shepherd rather than the successful graduate of the management training school.

We will grieve for Christopher Gray and sympathise with his family and parish; but in time we may come to say: "He was a good man, but he should have been more streetwise." We may include in clergy training more attention to prudence in the inner city: get the Church Commissioners to look at the security of vicarages. That all sounds very sensible.

But we should be failing him if we did not attend to precious principles in our Christian heritage which belong to no one denomination, but which are being eroded or jettisoned or represented as inappropriate for a much better managed church, or a more vulnerable and quite fragile secular society.

Lord Runcie was Archbishop of Canterbury, 1980-91.

## Reflections on the death of a vicar

## No EMU without a superstate

Once again, Europe should listen to Denmark: the single currency is about democracy

Democracy is the real European issue. As the German Constitutional Court has already found, the structures of the European Union are not in themselves democratic. Such democracy as exists in Europe is derived from the election of the 15 national governments, not from the European Parliament, which does not effectively control the Commission, let alone the Council of Ministers. The German Constitutional Court still holds itself to be superior to the European Court, in contrast to our House of Lords which accepts a subordinate role; the German court has expressed its concern that constitutional developments in Europe could come into conflict with the requirement of the German basic law that Germany should be a democratic state. That is one advantage of a written constitution: in Britain our democracy can be eroded without effective appeal to the courts.

Now the Danish Supreme Court has joined the German Constitutional Court in holding that the question of whether the Maastricht Treaty violates the national constitution is one that the Danish courts can consider. In 1994 a lower court refused to allow the case to be heard, but the Supreme Court has overruled them on appeal. Democracy is also a central issue in the public debate over the single currency. Obviously the single currency represents in itself a transfer of power from the national parliaments to the putative European Central Bank, which will be governed by nominated and unaccountable officials.

At present, national governments still have the power to determine monetary and exchange policy, except in so far as they or their national constitutions have handed that

function over to an independent national central bank. In the case of Germany, the independence of the Bundesbank is guaranteed by the constitution and could be removed only if the constitution were changed. Under the single currency, European interest and exchange rates would cease to be under any democratic influence at all. The creation of an independent European Central Bank implies that the individual democracies cannot be trusted with the value of money, but that unelected officials can be.

Repeated experience shows that monetary and budget policies only work when they work together. In post-war British financial history, there have been times when these policies were at variance with

each other. In each case the looser policy undermined the tighter one. Yet if the European Central Bank's control of the single currency has to be supported by control over national budgets, that would mean the whole of economic policy would have to be transferred to the Bank. As public expenditure decisions underlie every other type of political decision — including welfare, social services, defence and foreign policy — such a transfer would leave European democracy with hardly any power at all.

In the August issue of the *Gerrard & National Economic Review*, Professor Tim Congdon lays down what he regards as the essential conditions for the success of a single currency.

The EU can have a single currency if (1) it is prepared to make the changeover from a multiplicity of national legal tenders to a single European-wide legal tender on a single day with (nearly) all prices and contracts redenominated immediately, and all redenominations complete within a few weeks; (2) all monetary policy levers are concentrated in the



Central Bank, which is the sole issuer of the new legal tender; (3) the nations of the EU surrender ultimate control of taxation and government expenditure to a new central government which has fiscal sovereignty over all of them; and (4) this new central government has the power and the resources — with expenditure probably running into many billions of Ecu/Euro — to compensate the private sector for losses from contractual upheaval and the costs of carrying out the currency changeover.

None of these propositions is non-controversial, though I find Professor Congdon's arguments for them very persuasive. If he is right, the choice before Europe is not whether to have a single currency, but whether to have a single government. Beyond that, there is the question of how to establish a democratic basis for such a single government.

Why does Professor Congdon think that you cannot separate a single government from a single currency? He argues that there is, in fact,

"no example in history of significant sovereign states sharing a single currency". He puts this down to what economists call "free rider" problems. Budget deficits and short-term financing would both put inflationary pressures on the European single currency. "The larger the budget deficit, the higher the proportion [the national governments] can capture for the benefit of their own citizens without paying for it by taxation," he writes. "The higher the proportion of short-term monetary financing of the budget deficit, the cheaper the cost of debt service to governments."

If there is one currency, but 15 governments, each of these governments will have a "free rider" temptation to adopt budget and financing policies which undermine the currency. Most German commentators have already seen this danger coming, partly because the German taxpayer would have to pay most of the cost. Whether

Germans, like Chancellor Kohl, want a federal union of Europe, or, like the Bundesbank, fear it, they all recognise the truth of this Congdon argument. A currency union will only work if there is political union, because monetary and fiscal policy are not divisible.

There seem to be four possible solutions. The first, which has most support in Britain, is to accept the currency equivalent of the Reformist doctrine of *cuius regio, eius religio* — one sovereignty, one religion. As there are 15 sovereignties, there should be 15 currencies, or 14 if you count the formally linked currencies of Belgium and Luxembourg as one. Probably the British will stick by this view, at least for the next few years.

The second choice is a single currency, but one that is initially confined to a small number of closely linked governments, presumably including Germany, France, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg and perhaps Austria. Under German leader-

ship, this inner core might for some years steam in convoy, with governments solving the "one currency, several governments" problem by behaving as though they were one government although they were not. Eventually, this might well break down; it would be under pressure from the beginning, but it is not inconceivable as a temporary solution. It would not be democratic, as the real influence on economic policy would be the bureaucracies of the Commission, the Bank and the core governments.

The third choice is European democracy on the parliamentary model, making a frank transfer of power from national parliaments to the European Parliament and creating a European government dependent on a parliamentary majority. The Commission would then become the civil service of this government and ministers, supported by a parliamentary majority, would replace the present Commissioners. The Council of Ministers might be transformed into some sort of Senate, but would lose its main powers.

The fourth choice would be to adopt the American model and directly elect the President of Europe, who would take over many of the powers of the Council of Ministers. He would dominate, or actually appoint, the Commission and would face the European Parliament and Court as a separate executive authority. These third and fourth choices would certainly require a new European Treaty, would be subject to referendums in many countries, presumably including Britain, and would be challenged in the courts, above all in Germany and Denmark.

The two democratic choices might or might not be good for the people of Europe. They certainly go far beyond present state of public opinion in most European countries.

The probability is that the democratic deficit of the European Union will not be tackled, but that the single currency will be attempted by a small group of countries. That will make the shortfall of European democracy more obvious and more damaging. The trouble with Europe is that the people do not trust the bureaucrats, and the bureaucrats certainly do not trust the people.

## Stop press

LORD'S cricket ground is to close its traditional print shop beneath the Grand Stand where scorecards have been produced using hand-set type for 70 years, despite protests from MCC members.

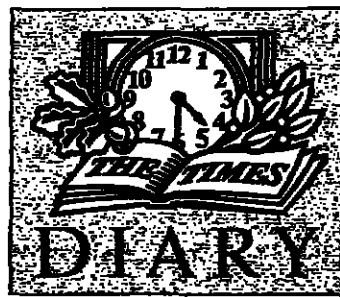
The first scorecard was printed at Lord's in 1848 from a text and the present room was opened in 1926. But MCC has decided that, as part of the redevelopment of the Grand

Stand at the end of the season, its ancient Letterpress will now be replaced by a desktop publishing arrangement.

Master printer Vince Miller, who as the longest-serving employee at Lord's set in type the names of Cowdrey, Laake, May and Wardle in the 1950s, will retire at the end of the season along with his small team of assistants.

"It's very sad. The members have been up in arms," remarked Lieutenant-Colonel John Stephenson, who retired as secretary of MCC in 1993. "The old press is part of Lord's. I know one has to move with the times, but you have to think of tradition and that is what makes Lord's unique."

In a carefully-worded circular, seen by supporters of the print shop as a distinct no-ball, the MCC told members that its committee has decided "that a printing department will continue at Lord's producing a regularly updated scorecard. The Letterpress will also be retained." The circular fails to explain that the printing will be computerised and the Letterpress is destined to become an exhibit in the Lord's museum.



● This year's pilgrimage to Lourdes cannot have been the happiest for Frances Shand Kyde, colourful mother to the Princess of Wales. Her journey took her past an endless succession of posters promoting a French magazine. It promised lurid new revelations about her daughter's private life.

### Rogue mail

LABOUR backbenchers are perhaps preparing too assiduously for a Tony Blair government. Paul Flynn, the trenchant MP for Newport, who wants cannabis legalised, has mailed 250 colleagues with his suggestion of a 1996 committee of backbenchers along the lines of the Tories' 1922 Committee. Apparently covering all eventu-

alities, he also sent one to Don Foster, Liberal Democrat MP for Bath. "I can't bear it. It's terrible," he grizzled. "I got the wrong Foster. It should have gone to Derek Foster, not Don. But one howler out of 250 isn't bad I suppose. Chris Patten once sent me a letter asking for money for the Conservative Party. "The new committee may look like another Labour split but it really isn't about that."

### County down

THOMAS HARDY'S Dorset is trying bitterly to repair its rustic image after being rejected as "too twee" by film-makers producing *Jude* based on his novel *Jude the Obscure*, which stars Kate Winslet. The British director, Michael Winterbottom, has chosen New Zealand and the Yorkshire Dales as its setting. Too many powerlines, dual carriageways and television aerials and an absence of scope for "big shots" forced the film-makers to abandon hope of true Hardy country. "Dorset is not twee, it is rustic, and though we do have dual carriageways we don't have a motorway," bleats the tourism officer.

● Barry Field, the bungee-jumping MP for the Isle of Wight — no

shrinking violet when it comes to publicity — is receiving medical treatment for a strain in his arm which he suggests has been brought on by shaking hands with too many constituents.

### Duelling dons

THE distinguished historian Lord Dacre has used a book review to take a gratuitous swipe at his old enemy and fellow academic at Peterhouse, Cambridge, Maurice Cowling.

Dacre, or Hugh Trevor-Roper,

was Master of Peterhouse when Cowling, guru to Michael Portillo, historian of modern England and the college's most powerful don at the time, took against him for his whiggish outlook.

The feud has run for many years and the latest dig comes in Dacre's critique of Lady Antonia Fraser's *The Gunpowder Plot in The Literary Review*. Guy Fawkes, notes the naughty peer, had a Jesuit cousin, "one Cowling, no doubt a sinister fellow". Cowling was not answering calls yesterday, doubtless pre-paring an acid retort. Dacre simply said: "What an interesting coincidence you have spotted."

### Ex-parrot

A KEEN shot the Duke of Westminster but, by his own admission in next month's *Field* magazine, a trigger-happy peer. Recalling an "extraordinary right-and-left" on one shoot, he says he brought down a parrot. "It was dusk, and a magpie flew out of some gorse bushes. I shot it and then its mate flew out too. When my dog retrieved them, to my horror I saw this multicoloured bird... It must have been an escapee."

The dual trauma appears to have been shortlived for he went on



The trigger-happy Duke

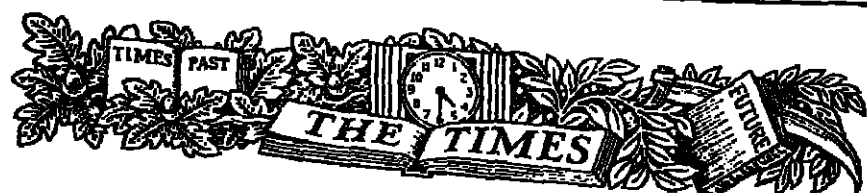
to score another tremendous double. "A low woodcock came towards me over the lake. I hit it with the first barrel and just as I did so I saw a salmon rising below the surface of the water, so I shot at it and a dog bowled past me and grabbed it by the end of the tail."

P.H.S



"Apparently they're dead easy to pass, failing them is far harder"





## PRIEST IN THE CITY

A death that demands engagement not retreat

The violent death of Father Christopher Gray has robbed Liverpool of a dedicated priest and the Church of England of a future leader. As with the murder of the London headmaster Philip Lawrence last year, a Christian who devoted his formidable intellectual talents and human gifts to the deprived has died at the hands of those he sought to save. Although it would be easy to despair, Father Gray's own example encourages a hope that the best answer to misery is not retreat but engagement.

The inspiration that took Father Gray from Oxford's cloisters to inner-city Liverpool was the Anglo-Catholic tradition of ministry to the poor. Christopher Gray trained for the priesthood at the College of the Resurrection, founded by a community that had moved from Oxford to Leeds specifically to take the Church to the inner cities. Their actions were driven by their theology. Anglo-Catholicism grew out of the Oxford Movement of the 1830s, which sought to rescue Anglicanism from the complacency into which it had sunk in the 19th century. The leaders of the movement, Newman, Pusey and Keble wished to reacquaint a worldly Church with its spiritual roots.

Their teaching, particularly that of Pusey, affirmed the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. The belief in the Incarnation, the truth of Christ made Man and present in bread and wine, imbued Anglo-Catholic priests with a special concern for the physical as well as the spiritual well-being of their flock. That prompted a desire to bring Christ to the people neglected by an Anglicanism retreating to middle-class ghettos. Priests were inspired, in the words of the Magdalen missionary Father Basil Jelli-

coe, by the vision that, "everyone is a blood relative of Christ the King".

That inspiration succeeded in drawing thousands of those the Anglo-Catholic Bishop Frank Weston called the "ragged, naked, oppressed and sweated" to Christ. When the great Anglo-Catholic priest Father Dolling died, after a lifetime dedicated to the poor of Portsmouth, some 20,000 parishioners followed his cortege. The congregation were attracted as much by faith as works. The ornate ritual of a church which treated even the lowliest as "prophets, priests and kings" recognised that religion need not be celebrated in an exclusively cerebral way. Anglo-Catholicism sought to satisfy physical, and spiritual, hunger and it succeeded in irrigating unpromising lands while the Sea of Faith elsewhere withdrew.

In our age, where fewer brilliant minds feel called to the Church and few of them to work in parishes such as Christopher Gray's, his vocation was exceptional. His death will cause some to question the wisdom of a mind so elevated and a man so monastic working in conditions so difficult. But Father Gray was in a proud tradition, and a far from forlorn one.

Writing in 1993 of what priesthood meant he invoked the example of Jesus washing his disciples' feet on the eve of his Passion and the idea of "humble labour for others, in obedience to the Father, and to the point of sacrificing one's own life". Father Gray sacrificed his life engaged in the humblest of labour but to the greatest of ends — the salvation of those most desperately in need. His sacrifice should inspire his countrymen, as he was inspired by the priests who went before him, never to turn in despair from those who reject what is right.

## DOLE'S DREAM TEAM

Reasons to anoint Colin Powell in San Diego

Colin Powell gave a moving and important speech at the Republican National Convention on Monday. Since then Bob Dole has been sorely tempted to exploit the emotion and attention generated by that performance, break with precedent and offer him the post of Secretary of State. If he could be sure of success, it would be a skillful move in a so far skillful convention for the Republicans. He could, with profit, extend the idea to other choices for his Cabinet.

Any such process is subject to a peculiar legal complication: under American law a candidate may not name anyone to a post before his election. But the candidate is allowed to indicate that someone is their first choice for a job and he or she may then say whether or not they would accept the task if asked. The Republican nominee has frequently said that he admires the General and would like to see him in a Dole administration. General Powell returned the compliment on Monday by emphasising the degree that they had worked together in the past. There are some precedents. When Eisenhower pencilled in John Foster Dulles as Secretary of State in 1952 and George Bush chose James Baker in 1988, the selections were obvious in advance of the results.

The issue is not whether Mr Dole can give his blessing to General Powell but whether it is in his interests to do so. The move could smack of political desperation, appearing solely motivated by the General's huge popularity. But these risks could be outweighed by the quite convincing arguments in favour. The first is that Mr Dole prides himself on being a plain-spoken man. If he has already decided that General Powell

would be the best man for this role, he could boost his image of decisiveness by saying so.

The second is that whatever reservations Europeans may have about General Powell's extreme caution in foreign policy, he is well qualified to reinforce the Dole campaign's promise to restore competence and professionalism to the White House. It would reassure allies who may have been made nervous by Pat Buchanan's message of isolationism and protectionism during the Republican primary season.

Mr Dole has no reason to be the prisoner of precedent. Indeed given the appearance of a "New Dole" this month, with his uncharacteristically bold economic plan and his selection, in Jack Kemp, of an unexpected vice-presidential candidate, a further innovation would help to maintain the momentum of a previously dull campaign.

Of course Mr Dole is attracted by General Powell's popularity amongst voters. But there is a wider interest at stake. American government is not a one-man show. The quality of the American executive goes far beyond the presidency. It matters enormously who staffs an administration. In 1992 Bill Clinton ran on a centrist message but used racial, gender, and sexual orientation guidelines in constructing his team. He then named the White House with Arkansas intimates and campaign aides many of whom were in their twenties. If this had been known in advance, Americans might have had second thoughts. One of the best reasons for a Dole presidency is the experience and competence of the people he would bring with him. He could gain further ground by reinforcing this message now.

## FARFLUNG PHOENICIANS

Merchants with a neglected claim on our imagination

The Phoenicians were not only the most famous seafarers of ancient times; they also gave us our alphabet. They were not only once the Mediterranean's richest trading nation; they also gave us one of literature's greatest heroines. They and their offspring were dominant in southern Europe for a thousand years. But for all their efforts, and for all the admiration bestowed upon Queen Dido by poets and artists, they left little that is admired by posterity.

As our Madrid correspondent describes today, the Spanish have now uncovered a large Phoenician city at Cerro del Villar, near Malaga. It suggests a different story from the usual tales of passing barbarian traders. The site has straight streets, plazas and ample villas. It points to a sophisticated city life of which little had been imagined before. Maybe Cerro del Villar will bring new visitors and attract new attention to the Phoenicians. It would not be before time.

Sometimes a people can get on the wrong side of history and never recover. The Phoenicians were semitic people mocked by the Greeks for their greed. Their Carthaginian colony, founded by Dido in the story told in Virgil's Aeneid, became the object of rivalry and hatred among the Romans, particularly after the fright that Hannibal, their greatest general, gave Rome in the 3rd century BC.

When great powers visited retribution upon the Phoenicians, it was notably merciless. Alexander the Great spared barely an inhabitant of Tyre: when the Romans destroyed Carthage, which trade had made the world's richest city, they sowed the very earth with salt. Because the Phoenicians were pagans, their reputation was never rescued by the Christian successors of Greece and Rome. Pejorative references to

Levantine merchants have outlasted Phoenician Tyre and Sidon by centuries.

The Phoenicians still keep many of their secrets. It is known, for example, that with its rich silver deposits and shells yielding the coveted Tyrian purple dye, Spain contributed heavily to the Phoenicians' fabled wealth. But scant physical evidence of their presence survives, and it was commonly assumed that with the exception of Gadir, the Phoenician forerunner of Cadiz, they had built little more than trading posts there. Perhaps there will now come fresh curiosity about a civilisation which was already so skilled by the 10th century BC that it was contracted to build the Temple of Solomon, a civilisation to whose development of the North Semitic alphabet, adopted by the Greeks, we owe the origins of our own written language.

Merchants they were, the middlemen of history; but they were purveyors not merely of the spices of India, but of the spice of adventure. These were the fearless navigators who, when others were still hugging coastlines, first discovered and used the Pole Star, and who guarded the secrets of their trade routes, knowledge of currents and winds and discoveries as zealously as Renaissance Venetians were to keep the secrets of their glass factories. They framed the first known maritime laws and their great ships were the East Indianmen of the ancient world, credited by Herodotus with the first circumnavigation of Africa. Their borders, as Ezekiel wrote of Tyre, were figuratively as well as literally "in the midst of the seas". To a still greater extent than the Vikings, Dutch or Portuguese after them, they left little mark on land. Their claim is on the imagination.

## Human life and modern medicine

From Sir Anthony Alment

Sir, It seems to me, in the light of recent events — the abortion of a twin, the destruction of frozen embryos, the possible birth of octuplets as the result of fertility treatment — that the branch of medicine I once practised is sliding away from its belief in unique human identity and dignity towards the expedient management of genetic material (letters, August 7, 10).

Though a so-called liberal gynaecologist who performed many abortions in my own career, I would strongly endorse the views expressed by Lord Haldane (letter, August 7). I would also suggest that the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority has allowed itself to drift, in having failed to prevent the careless neglect of proper record-keeping or to accept responsibility for excess embryos whose fate has caused such sadness.

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY ALMENT (President,  
Royal College of Obstetricians  
and Gynaecologists, 1978-81),  
Winston House,  
Boughton, Northampton.  
August 14.

From Mrs Sara Starkey

Sir, Once again we have headlines over another miracle/horror of science. And so far it has been easiest to blame the woman herself, GPs or the media.

We, the public, are inconsistent in our attitudes. On the one hand we are horrified by the unnaturalness of modern medicine while, at the same time, putting vast sums into research charity coffers and, through our taxes, into universities and teaching hospitals. These funds go towards ever more esoteric research into all branches of medical science, including genetics and experiments designed to give every infertile woman the opportunity to have a child.

Apart from the fact most of these women won't conceive after many toxic and suspect procedures, those who do eventually give birth have a far higher chance of producing children with problems, from slow learning to quite horrendous illnesses.

By sad contrast, we have made little headway in overall health: indeed, according to the latest Government data (*Living in Britain, General Household Survey 1994*, HMSO, 1996) in every age group, particularly the young, the incidence of longstanding illnesses is rising. Perhaps the latest horror stories on what medicine is now capable of doing will act as a catalyst to rethinking whether this radical roller-coaster interventionist medicine is the panacea to all our ills.

Yours sincerely,  
SARA STARKEY,  
12a Ashburnham Road,  
Tonbridge, Kent.  
August 13.

From the Reverend J. E. Abberton

Sir, I believe that Lord Haldane's moral reasoning is wrong. You simply cannot, logically, argue for any human rights at any stage unless there is first of all a right to reach that stage. You cannot abandon the rights of the embryo and then hope to rediscover human rights later on.

The word "viable" means able to live without the protection of the womb (did I say "protection"?); but no one in society can live alone — we all depend on each other, and newly born babies certainly rely on their mothers (or on some other source of nourishment and care).

It is understandable that many will not wish to use the word "person" in regard to the human embryo; but it is undoubtedly human life and, if allowed to develop as either nature or God intends, it will become a person.

Yours faithfully,

J. E. ABBERTON,  
St Peter's Presbytery,  
651 Leeds Road,  
Bradford, West Yorkshire.  
August 7.

From Mr Andrew E. A. Selous

Sir, It is not time that the law allowed GPs to prescribe fertility treatment only to married women with their husband's consent where the couple can support children? The commitment of marriage is the best place for a child, let alone several children born at the same time.

Furthermore, why should the public fund treatment through their taxes that can lead to considerable cost to the public purse when the parents concerned are unable to support the children?

Yours faithfully,  
ANDREW E. A. SELOUS  
(Conservative prospective  
parliamentary candidate for  
Sunderland North),  
52 Kyrle Road, SW11,  
August 13.

From Mr Rodney Parkins

Sir, You quote Miss Mandy Allwood as saying of her eight-baby pregnancy: "I want nature to take its course" (report, August 12). What a pity that she did not do so before accepting in-fertility treatment.

Yours faithfully,  
RODNEY PARKINS,  
8 Duval Drive, Rochester, Kent.  
August 13.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Whittle and the vision for invention

From Dr William Kingston

Sir, Your obituary of Sir Frank Whittle today notes that he debated whether he could afford the £5 to renew the patent for the jet engine, first filed at the Patent Office in 1930.

It was in fact worse than this. I received a letter from him in 1969 in which he said: "I allowed the master patent to lapse in 1935 because it then seemed unlikely that the invention would reach a commercial stage within the life of the patent; moreover, I could ill afford the renewal fees." He goes on to point out that his first financial backers, Falk and Partners, never received a dividend and were even forced to sell their shares at par (allowing for inflation) in 1944, by Sir Stafford Cripps, then the Minister for Aircraft Production.

One might be allowed to speculate that, if Whittle had received full industrial and government support from the start, jet propulsion might have been as powerful a deterrent in the cause of peace as the atomic bomb was in the postwar period.

But Whittle was no salesman, and did not know his way around politics and bureaucracies as well as Watson-Watt did in the cause of radar. So the money (£4 million — a prodigious amount for research in the 1930s) went into the essentially defensive radar instead.

Another interesting twist to this story of failure to back innovation is that when Admiral "Jackie" Fisher was relegated to the Board of Invention in the First World War, he sent for Sir Charles Parsons, the inventor of the steam turbine, to try to get him to marry the turbine principle with in-

ternal combustion. Parsons replied that not only could he not do it, but that the task was intrinsically impossible. It was just this that Whittle achieved in 1930.

Yours faithfully,  
WILLIAM KINGSTON,  
University of Dublin,  
School of Business Studies,  
Trinity College, Dublin 2,  
August 10.

From Professor G. D. W. Smith, FRS

Sir, Your obituary for Sir Frank Whittle is an object lesson for all who are concerned with science policy in the United Kingdom. In my view, the saga of official neglect, failure to invest, and eventual handover of ideas to competitors, is still all too familiar.

At present, the Government and the Research Councils are exerting pressure on scientists to move towards more applied, short-term research which will be wealth-creating. The implications of this policy are that we are not already doing work of this kind, and that the blame for Britain's relative failure in recent years to compete with the rest of the world in high-technology industry can be laid at the door of the scientific community.

The story of Frank Whittle shows there is little wrong with the quality, or the applicability, of our science. The problems lie downstream, with repeated failures of courage, vision, and investment by government, city and financial institutions, and industry.

Yours sincerely,  
GEORGE SMITH  
(Professor of Materials Science),  
Trinity College, Oxford.  
August 10.

### Postal dispute

From Mr S. J. Casely

Sir, It is not the totality of services that Royal Mail offer that is the centre of this dispute (Mr Robin Rhoderick-Jones's letter, August 12), but rather the increasingly absurd methods that Royal Mail wish to introduce to increase profit.

The recent rise in postal charges was brought about by increasing government demands for revenue (another form of indirect taxation) and not by the business failing to deliver productivity or profit targets.

The union's point is that they have given Royal Mail a level of productivity and quality of service unparalleled in any comparable postal administration, and now wish rightly to share in the benefits. By any standard the postal workers do an outstanding job for wages and conditions that few would wish to accept. A five-day week is not unreasonable for those who start the working day at 5am.

Yours etc,  
S. J. CASELY,  
Flat 24, Merlyn House,  
Central Avenue, Chatham, Kent.  
August 12.

### Abolition of duty-free

From Mr Steven Burgess

Sir, George Brock is quite right to question the logic of maintaining duty-free ("This week in Europe", August 12). Its abolition within the single market makes sense and will not necessarily mark the end of a great tradition: for as long as we have a higher domestic duty on such products as beer, wine and spirits, we will continue to travel to the Continent for cheaper alcoholic drinks.

But, as a result of abolishing duty-free, the forces of competition and consumer choice within the single market will, in the longer term, bring extra pressure to bear on the Chancellor to reduce the level of duty in this country. Such a development would surely be a good thing for the individual consumer and taxpayer and would enable the alcoholic drinks industry here to compete on a more level footing with our EU partners.

Yours sincerely,  
S. T. BURGESS,  
Top Flat, 34 Dymock Street, SW6,  
August 12.

From Mr Robert G. Parker-Eaton

Sir, As the executive committee representative for all UK airlines on the Duty Free Confederation, I can assure George Brock that airlines have not been "begging government for years"

to release them from the need to carry "unnecessary duty-free alcohol in passenger jets".

Duty-free sales on aircraft (and at airports) not only provide customers with a quality service, but are a major source of income which helps keep ticket prices down. If duty-free shopping within the EU does end in 1999, Britannia Airways estimates that holiday prices will increase by around £15 per passenger.

Mr Brock also suggests that the income derived from duty and tax-free provides airports with a government subsidy; but duty-free is only a subsidy if there is an actual loss to the UK exchequer.

The Duty Free Confederation has strong reason to believe, and is currently undertaking research to prove, that there is in fact no loss to the exchequer from duty and tax-free sales. In fact, the converse is true — duty-free actually generates additional exchequer revenue and valuable employment. Contrary to some opinion, duty-free sales will not, in the main, be replaced by tax-paid sales, to the detriment of producers such as the Scotch whisky industry.

Yours sincerely,  
ROBERT PARKER-EATON  
(Deputy Managing Director),  
Britannia Airways Ltd.,  
Britannia House,  
London Luton Airport, Bedfordshire.  
August 13.

### Content of alcohol

From Dr Julia Ellis

Sir, Rosie Boycott's contribution to your feature on addiction yesterday, "Why some people can't stop at a few drinks and a flutter", horrified me. She states that: "Alcohol itself is ether." I can assure her that it most certainly is not. Ethyl alcohol is found in alcoholic beverages and, in reasonable quantities, creates the harmless high that she discusses.

Ether is a volatile substance that vapourises readily at room temperature and in this state is highly explosive. It is also a powerful and unpleasant anaesthetic. Members of the public should not confuse the two, and must not attempt to smell, taste or handle ether in any way.

Yours faithfully,  
JULIA ELLIS  
(Nutritionist, Coeliac Research Unit),  
St Thomas' Hospital,  
Lambeth Palace Road, SE1,  
August 13.

### Britten statue

From Mrs A. M. Riley

Sir, "Britten is probably the greatest composer this country has ever produced." What a depressing thought!

Mr Peter Shaffer (letter, August 9) might like to listen to Elgar.

Yours sincerely,  
A. M. RILEY,  
High Post, Parsons Lane,  
Crockerton, Warrminster, Wiltshire.

From Mr Graham Wheeler

Sir, Perhaps the statue should be in London. After all, Britten is a national figure. Aldeburgh can hardly object — they have had their say. What about the foyer of the new Sadlers Wells theatre (report and photograph, August 13) — the site where Peter Grimes was first given?

Yours faithfully,  
GRAHAM WHEELER,  
67 Eastbury Road,  
Northwood, Middlesex,  
August 13.

### Cast-iron design for a phone box

From Mr Bruce Martin, FRIBA

Sir, Lord St John of Fawsley, Chairman of the Royal Fine Art Commission, asks for a competition for the design of a new telephone kiosk of "really good contemporary design" (letter, August 13; see also leading article, August 14).

Such a competition was held in 1964. The K8 was chosen by the Post Office and the Royal Fine Art Commission, and about 25,000 were made.

It was a cast-iron red kiosk, virtually vandal-proof, could be easily assembled in 20 minutes, had seven panes of glass (instead of 72 in the traditional K6 which Lord St John praises in his letter), was easy to clean, well ventilated, properly illuminated and was a good, clean design. Sadly, very few remain, having been superseded by the current rash of irrational, ill-designed boxes.

There is no need for another competition: reinstate K8. It is now 30 years old — old enough, in fact, to be listed.

Yours etc,  
BRUCE MARTIN  
(Designer of the K8 kiosk),  
Bruce Martin Associates,  
The New Studio,  
Bury Green, Little Hadham,  
Ware, Hertfordshire.  
August 14.

From Professor D. E. Newland

Sir, The Chairman of the Royal Fine Art Commission wants to improve the design of telephone kiosks and suggests a national competition. I propose that this competition should include also the design of telecommunication masts.

These skeletal structures serve an important and useful function but can be very intrusive, especially when sited in beautiful countryside. When there are two masts of similar height but different design standing close together, the visual effect can be disastrous.

The objective of a competition should be to find the most pleasing aesthetic design, while seeking to minimise the number of masts needed. Cannot one elegant mast carry the aerials for several operators?

Lord St John says the traditional red telephone kiosk was designed with the help of the Royal Fine Art Commission. Rather than inviting BT and other telephone companies to hold their own design competition (as he suggests), cannot the RFAC take the lead in sponsoring a competition? I am sure that the relevant professional engineering institutions as well as the companies concerned would be willing to help administer this.

Yours sincerely,  
DAVID NEWLAND,  
University of Cambridge,  
Department of Engineering,  
Trumpington Street, Cambridge.  
August 13.

### Heart of the Bruce

From the Dean of Aberdeen and Orkney

Sir, It is indeed good that the heart of Robert the Bruce should receive a proper burial (report, August 13), but is Melrose Abbey the right place for this?

The Bruce himself changed his expressed desire that his heart be buried at Melrose. Should not his dying wish that it be buried in Jerusalem now be respected? After his death in 1329 the attempt to take his embalmed heart to the Holy Land foundered in Spain, but the journey could yet be completed.

Now that Historic Scotland has begun excavations at Melrose to find the casket containing the heart and plans to rebury it "with a fitting ceremony", surely Saint Andrew's Church in Jerusalem, where a plaque set into the floor some sixty years ago commemorates King Robert's dying wish, is the proper place.

Yours faithfully,  
GERALD STRANRAER-MULL,  
The Rectory, Ellon, Aberdeenshire.  
August 13.

### Irish famine ship

From Mr F. G. Davis

Sir, Would it not be an imaginative gesture of reconciliation for the British Government to offer to match the Irish Government's contribution to the cost of the replica of the famine ship, *Jeannie Johnston*, now building in County Kerry (report and photograph, August 10)? And an equally imaginative gesture of forgiveness for the organising committee to accept it?

Yours faithfully,  
FRANK DAVIS,  
Stonelea, South Newington,  
Banbury, Oxfordshire.  
August 10.

### Budget tip

From Mrs Kathleen Read

Sir, In view of the 1p increase on a first-class postage stamp, do you think the Chancellor could manage a further penny on the 25p per week extra allowance on the pensions of the over-60s? Many of us can still write.

Yours sincerely,  
KATHLEEN READ,  
2 Windmill Cottages,  
Hilltop Breadsall, Derby.  
August 14.







## OBITUARIES

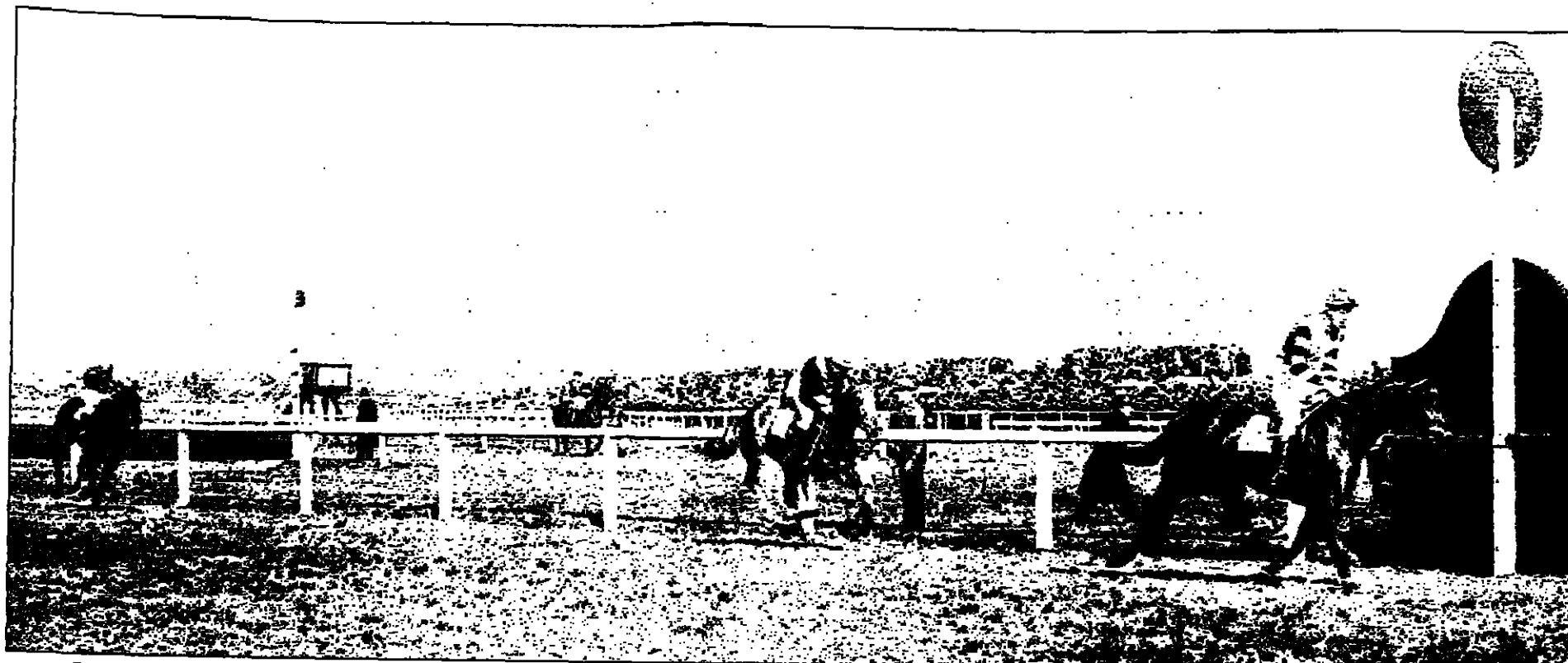
## CAPTAIN BOBBY PETRE

Captain Bobby Petre, winner of the 1946 Grand National, died on August 3 aged 84. He was born in London on February 15, 1912.

In a Britain groaning under postwar austerity, a crowd of 400,000 racegoers put aside their tribulations and turned up at Aintree on May 5, 1946, to watch Bobby Petre romp home in the Grand National on the 25-1 outsider Lovely Cottage. It was a colossal attendance, of a kind unimaginable in these days when the minutiae of the world's last great cavalry charge can more easily be appreciated on television. But the crowd, relaxing in the bright sunshine, certainly had their money's worth, as an amateur rider strode to victory in what was the first Grand National to be run after the end of the Second World War.

The favourite, the 3-1 shot Prince Regent, was well beaten into third place that day. But this did not detract from the enjoyment of the crowd, who revelled in the neck-and-neck duel almost all the way to the line, as Lovely Cottage held off the second placed horse, the 100-1 chance Jack Finlay.

With such a dramatic entry into postwar steeplechasing, to add to a reputation as the most accomplished amateur rider of the 1930s, Petre seemed to have golden opportunities ahead of him, when he turned professional shortly afterwards. But within two years his riding career was in ruins. First, a severe injury in 1948



Petre, aboard the bay gelding Lovely Cottage, holds off Jack Finlay to win the 1946 Grand National, with the favourite, Prince Regent, far away in third place

prevented him from riding competitively again. Then his training licence was withdrawn when one of his horses failed a dope test. Thereafter his career was in farming, not on the Turf.

Robert Charles Petre was born in Mayfair, the son of an army officer, and educated at Harrow and Sandhurst. There he was a near contemporary of Fulke Walwyn, who was an amateur rider to win the 1936 Grand National before embarking on a great career as a National Hunt trainer.

Petre very soon made his mark in point-to-points, and then in National Hunt racing in the 1930s in what was to be a golden age for amateur riders. His first winner under National Hunt rules was in 1930 on his father's mare Hero Lass at Wincanton in 1930. Very soon he was establishing himself among the leading amateur riders of his day, becoming joint champion in 1937-38 and sole champion the following year. His most famous victory in that period was on St George in the 1938

National Hunt Chase at Cheltenham, then regarded as the amateur Grand National.

A regular officer in the Scots Guards, he served as a captain throughout the Second World War, in the disastrous Norwegian campaign of 1940, and subsequently in Italy from 1943 onwards.

After demobilisation he applied himself again to his racing career and soon forged a partnership with the bay gelding Lovely Cottage, which was owned by J. Morant and trained by Tommy Rayson in

Hampshire. Their first outing together was not particularly auspicious: the horse fell at Wincanton. But it later won at Taunton, a performance which qualified it for an outsider's — starting price of 25-1 for the eagerly expected first postwar Grand National.

The event attracted a record crowd and is regarded as being one of the most dramatic examples of this always heroic steeplechase. The hot favourite, Prince Regent, led for most of the way and was at least 20

lengths clear of the rest of the field as he jumped the last-but-one fence from home. At that stage his backers were counting their money and the bookies' brows were furrowed. Prince Regent was still in front when he jumped the last, but by this time he was beginning to tire under the 12st 5lb he was carrying, and his rivals were beginning to take closer order.

With a 25lb weight advantage, Lovely Cottage and Bobby Petre took up the running, surging past the favourite. But

they were themselves hotly pursued by Jack Finlay who came through with a formidable burst on the outside. In the event, Petre and his mount proved too strong for Jack Finlay and their four-length margin at the winning post put the result beyond argument. Only six of the 34 starters finished the race.

Soon afterwards, Petre turned professional, and also took out a trainer's licence, working at Tunworth, Hampshire. He rode in the 1947 Grand National, falling on

Silver Fame, but he later won at Carrick Castle. But his career on the Turf was almost immediately afterwards to be devastated by two mishaps. While out exercising his horses on the beach at Bognor Regis in March 1948 he had a bad fall while jumping from the sea wall, and broke a leg. This did not at first seem serious, but complications set in from the fracture, and the upshot was that he had to have his leg amputated. It was the end of his National Hunt riding career.

To compound his misfortunes, shortly afterwards, a previous misdemeanour came home to roost. In the January 1948 meeting at Plumpton he had pulled up in the Cookbridge Handicap Hurdle on Bray Star, from whom saliva and sweat samples were subsequently required. In May that year, after a stewards' enquiry, it was established that a stimulant had been administered to Bray Star and Petre's training licence was withdrawn by the National Hunt Committee.

It was the end of any direct association with the Turf. Thereafter Petre's career was in agricultural estate management, though he continued to ride and hunt in Hampshire. He was for a number of years active in the Country Landowners' Association. But he was eventually allowed back onto the racecourse: in 1985 at Liverpool he and other surviving Grand National winning jockeys each received a trophy from the Princess Royal. Petre married, in 1934, Marie Delphine Chichester and they had three children.

## JOHN LANIGAN

John Lanigan, Australian-born operatic tenor, died on August 1 aged 75. He was born on January 7, 1921.

DURING a quarter of a century at Covent Garden in which he sang more than 80 roles, the tenor John Lanigan made a valuable and distinguished contribution to British operatic life. Had he, as he once half-seriously wished, been "born with all voice and no brain", he might have enjoyed a more spectacular and glamorous career. As it was, the lifestyle and methods of the jet-setting international star held little appeal for him; he came instead to epitomise the kind of versatile, dedicated and unpretentious artist on whom opera companies can depend.

In the 1950s Lanigan concentrated on lyric roles, to which his ardent, stylish tenor and youthful good looks were well suited. Later he moved on to character parts, excelling especially as Mime and as Shuisky, the scheming boyar in Mussorgsky's *Boris Godunov*. He also created roles in some of the most important new operas to be premiered in Britain during his career, from Tippett's *The Midsummer Marriage* in 1955, to Hans Werner Henze's *We Come to the River* in 1976.

John Lanigan was born in Victoria, Australia. His mother sang opera, and his father was a keen amateur

tenor. After studies in Melbourne Lanigan made his way, via Italy, to London, making his debut at the Stoll Theatre in 1949 as Fenton in Verdi's *Falstaff* and Rodolfo in *La Bohème*. He first sang at the Royal Opera House in 1951, as Thaddeus in Balfe's *The Bohemian Girl*, conducted by Sir Thomas Beecham. Later that year he joined the resident Covent Garden Company, making his debut as the Duke in *Rigoletto*.

He remained with the company for 25 years. A natural team player, he relished those early years: "When I first joined there was a much more integrated performance," he said in an interview in 1973. "We didn't have many Gliglis or Gobblis, but they were good singers. I've never seen such teamwork."

In his first decade at Covent Garden his roles included Tamino, Alfredo, Pinkerton, Des Grieux (*Manon*), Jenik, Almaviva and Laca (in Covent Garden's first production of Janáček's *Jenufa*, when his performance was hailed as "an admirable portrait of one of opera's most voracious and complex characters"). His Cassio in Verdi's *Otello* was acclaimed by the editor of *Opera* magazine as "the best sung interpretation of the part I have ever heard".

In the 1960s Lanigan's reluctance to pursue an international career at the expense of family life, combined with a bout of serious nasal trouble



Lanigan with Adele Leigh in *The Midsummer Marriage*, Covent Garden, 1955

that eventually required surgery, led him to turn from what he called "the young lover parts" to the development of character roles.

His outstanding portrayal of Mussorgsky's devious prince (one of the best Shuiskys there can ever have been) was committed to record in 1964, with André Cluytens conducting and Boris Christoff singing the roles

of Boris, Pimen and Varlaam. Lanigan also recorded the Rector in *Peter Grimes* and Dr Cato in *Falstaff*. As a memorable Mime he made some of his rare foreign appearances, performing the role in New York and Chicago. Enthusiasm for the challenges of contemporary music was a constant of Lanigan's career, and he sang in nearly all the important postwar

British operas (*The Knot Garden* and *Billy Budd* were almost the only notable exceptions). The uncouth Rector was one of several Britten roles in his repertoire, some of which he shared with Peter Pears at Covent Garden: he was Flute in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Essex in *Gloriana* and Sir Philip in *Owen Wingrave*. He also sang Pandarus in Walton's *Troilus and Cressida*.

Among the roles he created were Jack in Tippett's *The Midsummer Marriage* (1955), Hermes in the same composer's *King Priam* (1962), Jones in Richard Rodney Bennett's *Victory* (1970), the Cardinal/Archbishop in Maxwell Davies's *Taverner* (1972), the composer's first major operatic work) and the Soldier/Madman in Henze's sprawling, controversial *We Come to the River* (1976).

Lanigan gave his last performance at the Royal Opera House in 1981. After retirement, he moved to Canada. He is survived by his wife and a son, who works at Covent Garden.

## RICHARD GOODWIN

Richard Goodwin, economist, died on August 6 aged 83. He was born on February 24, 1913.

RICHARD GOODWIN was an economist of distinction and originality, who taught at the universities of Harvard, Cambridge and Siena. He was also a talented painter and the artistic side of him found this last posting particularly congenial.

Richard Murphy Goodwin was born in Indiana into a family of upper middle-class farmers and small merchants. But there were two professional artists as well, and this had a considerable influence on Goodwin's life. His education, he claimed, began only when he came to Harvard in 1930, where he in due course graduated *summa cum laude* in Economics. He then went to St John's College, Oxford, as a Rhodes Scholar to read PPE. In 1937 he returned to Harvard with a PhD in 1941. He then taught at Harvard until the early 1950s when he left for Cambridge where he settled. He was a Reader in Economics and a Fellow of Peterhouse.

On retirement from Cambridge in 1980 he moved to Siena, where he was appointed a professor at the university. This was an inspired decision, since it led to an astonishing ten years of fruitful research and to a legacy of students who had been inspired by him, and are now well on the way in establishing their own reputations.

In economics Goodwin published relatively rarely, but what he did publish will endure. Perhaps his most outstanding piece was a non-linear model of fluctuations where, with great elegance and originality, he incorporated some famous ideas of his teacher Schumpeter into a flexible accelerator mechanism. This work was very influential and led to much further research. His originality is well exemplified in his paper in the *Dobb Festschrift*, where he applied the Volterra equations of predator-prey cycles to an economic model of

oscillations. While no doubt something of a parable, rather than a description, it was fascinating and very suggestive, and the ideas have been taken up by others.

In Siena, mathematical progress in non-linear dynamics and chaos theory reignited Goodwin's abiding interest in dynamics. He published a number of books on economic fluctuations, where the new mathematics was fruitfully applied. These books are notable for a number of interesting (and beautiful) computer simulations.

Goodwin's other great inter-



est was in linear economics, and early on he published a very interesting paper on the "matrix multiplier", which was in the spirit of another of his Harvard mentors, Leontief. Later he was drawn into the controversies occasioned by Sraffa's work, but never followed the more absurd turns in this debate. He wrote a textbook largely on this topic, but it was much closer to von Neuman's famous contribution than to the "Neo-Ricardians". His interest in the Ricardian revival in his technical work no doubt owed something to the belief that Marxian value theory could be given rigorous expression. But all of this theoretical work in economics has the mark of a careful, fastidious and imaginative mind, and his *Festschrift*, to which many economists contributed, testifies to the esteem in which he was held.

In the 1930s Goodwin, like so many others, joined the Communist Party. It is difficult to believe that this sceptical man of aristocratic temperament ever found this company congenial, and it is sense of duty and perhaps some despair at the state of the world. He left the party during the war, but this did not stop him from being pursued by Senator McCarthy. He remained on the Left all his life, although he hated political activity and had to drive himself to participate in it. But economics was at most half of Goodwin's life, the other was painting. He exhibited both here and in the United States, and the faculties of economics both in Cambridge and Siena own some notable examples. There are also many pieces in private collections, and it is clear that he had the makings of artistic distinction. Although happiest when painting, his other interests and obligations prevented him from devoting himself fully to that pursuit. Indeed he was somewhat torn between economics and painting, and he believed that the prevented him from really giving his best to either.

As an economist, he was too modest in his views. He was, quite correctly, judged by others to be of outstanding ability. His early work on the supply of money, and on Indian development, also showed that he was not just a theorist.

Goodwin was wine steward of his college. He loved beautiful cars and beautiful clothes, Italy and India (where until recently he went to paint in the summers). In Siena he himself was loved not only by colleagues but by many others, including the owners and staff of the best restaurant, which he often frequented and where his photograph is prominently on display. His courtesy, charm and distinguished appearance invited admiration. In the University of Siena there is now a Richard Goodwin seminar room with a number of his fine paintings on the wall.

He is survived by his wife Jacqueline, a graduate of Somerville there were no children.

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## Ferry starts next year's price war

By STEVE KEENAN

A CHANNEL ferry price war for 1997 has begun, with one operator offering the same rock-bottom fares as this summer.

Sea France is selling return crossings for as low as £79 per car and up to five occupants this summer and guarantees purchasers the same fare next year. Standard returns for £95 on the Dover-Calais route carry the same deal.

The French-owned company, which only started service under a new name in January, has pledged to match any lower fare next year. "We are determined to lead the way in the battle of the cross-Channel fares. Even if prices are lowered next year then the customer can't lose," says Robin Wilkins, the managing director.

This attempt to keep customers reflects the pressure smaller companies are under after the summer cuts.

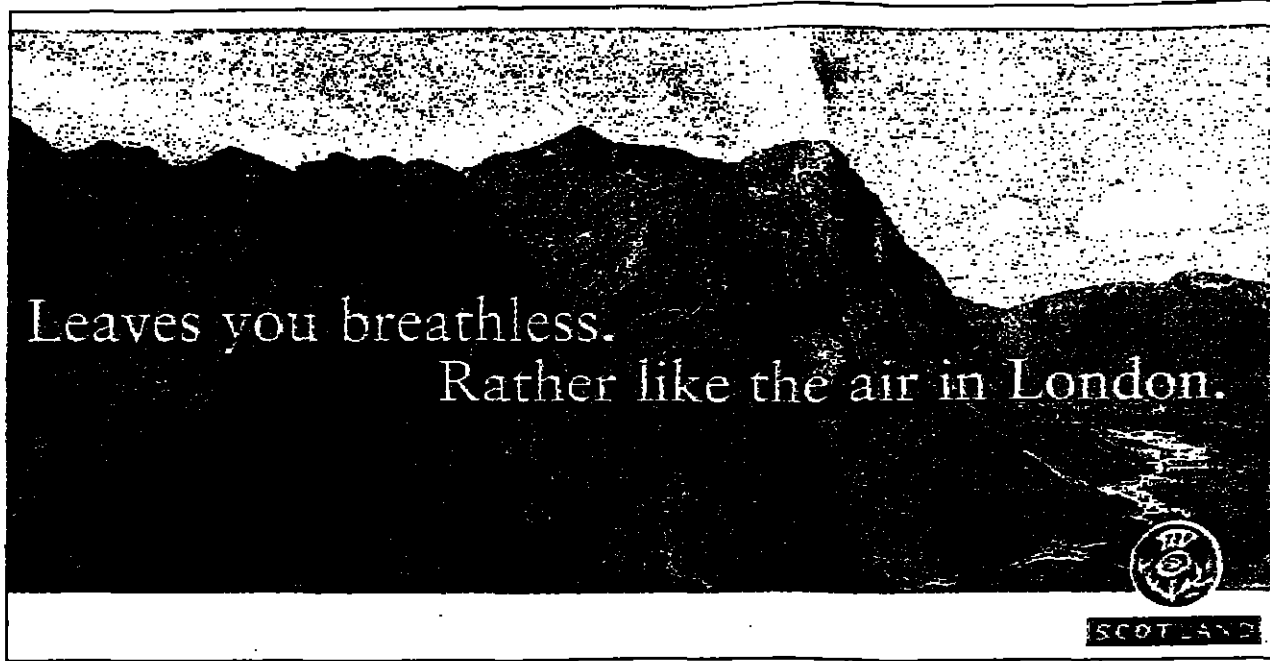
Today Stena introduces the biggest ship seen out of Dover, the *Stena Emperor*, capable of carrying 2,000 passengers and 550 cars. The company now runs four ferries and two catamarans on the route to Calais, which accounts for 80 per cent of cross-Channel traffic.

In the first six months of this year, Sally Ferries lost 25 per cent of its passengers on the two routes from Ramsgate, while Sea France carried just 8 per cent of ferry passengers and less than 5 per cent of all

traffic, including Eurotunnel. The company was in partnership with Stena until the beginning of the year. But Bill Laidlaw, Sea France operations director, says: "We have made progress every month and are looking for between 12 and 14 per cent of the ferry market by the end of the year. The way things are going, people are waiting until the last minute to make bookings. For a new company not known in the UK we are not doing too badly."

The exception among smaller operators has been Hoverspeed, which has kept 10 per cent of the market in the face of competition from P&O, Stena and Eurotunnel's Le Shuttle service. The numbers have been largely buoyed by the booze-cruise, shopping and day-trip market. While Hoverspeed carried 1.34 million passengers on its two routes in the first six months of this year, it took only 133,000 cars. The industry normally works on four passengers to a car.

Le Shuttle has taken one third of the car and passenger market, with the biggest loser — in terms of numbers — being P&O European Ferries. The company has lost 16 per cent of passengers on Dover-Calais. But with the Government allowing P&O to talk to rivals about possible co-operation, the line-up of competitors is unlikely to remain the same for 1997.



Leaves you breathless.  
Rather like the air in London.

Oxygen of publicity: Scottish Tourist Board poster aimed specifically at harassed commuters in the South East

## Scotland in bid to make capital gains

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

LONDON'S polluted air is being exploited by Scotland to persuade tourists to turn their backs on the capital and head for the clean air of the hills and glens that lie north of the border.

Thousands of posters will be put up today in Underground and mainline railway stations, telling commuters that "Scotland leaves you breathless rather like the air in London".

The £185,000 poster campaign is part of a £1.5 million drive designed to boost still further Scotland's tourism industry which is wooing record numbers of holidaymakers from the South East.

This no-holds-barred marketing ploy has infuriated the London Tourist Board. "It is unfortunate that the Scottish Tourist Board advertising campaign seems couched in competitive terms," said Paul Hopper, managing director of the LTB.

"If you want a choice of 100 theatres, 125 cinemas and 11,000 pubs, clubs and restaurants, you will have to come to London. However, if a quiet sunset over the mountains is what you are after, then

Scotland is definitely the place."

Scottish tourism leaders were unrepentant. "Two places as diverse as Scotland and London ought to be able to coexist," said the Scottish Tourist Board. "The fact is, though, that the environment is different in London than in Scotland. All we are doing is trying to point out that the quality of life is different and, with a certain amount of irony and levity, that Scotland is affordable, accessible and different."

The idea behind the campaign is to convince commuters crammed into crowded trains to make a spur-of-the-moment decision to spend a few days in Scotland, especially in the autumn.

The attempt to extend the holiday season into the autumn was first tried last year with the launch of an Autumn Gold brochure. It proved so successful that this year it is being extended with many parts of the industry combining to offer package deals which, the STB claims, can be

half the price of similar breaks in England.

Ryanair is offering a return flight from Stansted to Glasgow Prestwick from £49 with onward rail travel anywhere in Scotland for an extra £5. The limited number of seats must be booked seven days in advance and are not available on Fridays or Sundays.

InterCity West Coast is offering two London to Glasgow tickets for the price of one: £29. Bed and breakfast in a farmhouse costs from £13 a night or a room in a castle from £27 a night per person.

Historic properties, including Edinburgh and Stirling castles, are staying open longer and the Autumn Gold promotion provides two admissions to any Scottish National Trust property for the price of one.

Although most of the estimated five million British visitors to Scotland each year make their own arrangements, a typical three-night package including return air travel, car hire and dinner, bed and breakfast would cost

£185 a person. Tourism to Scotland declined in the early part of this decade, and in 1995 there was a fall of 8 per cent in the amount being spent. Last year this was reversed, with a 7 per cent increase.

English visitors to Scotland spent an estimated £800 million in 1995 — 11 per cent more than the previous year — and tourists from the South East brought in £300 million of that. Hollywood films such as *Rob Roy*, *Braveheart* and *Loch Ness* are also believed to have helped stimulate interest in Scottish holidays in the past two years.

Rain in Scotland is less likely in October and November than in July and August. The 30-year average rainfall in Edinburgh is 48mm in October compared with 79mm in August. Shetland has seven minutes' more daylight than London at the beginning of October, visibility can be as much as 35 miles in the autumn and the midge — the creature which has put off more visitors than any tourist campaign has attracted — dies with the first frosts of October.

## US train routes cut

By QUENTIN LETTS

AN AMERICAN version of the Beeching cuts to passenger train services has been announced, with 12 per cent of the US rail network affected and some of the most evocative routes through the old Wild West likely to be closed.

Amtrak, the national train operator, says that shortage of federal government funds will force it to close three major routes in November. The threatened closure will deprive 42 towns and cities of passenger train services.

Casualties will include the Pioneer run between Denver and Seattle, named after the frontiersmen for whom trains were a lifeline during the westward conquest in the 19th century. The wonderfully named Desert Wind express, connecting Salt Lake City and Los Angeles, will vanish, as will the Texas Eagle between St Louis and San Antonio.

Tom Downs, president of Amtrak, left open the possibility of a reprieve but said it was "ninety-nine to one that these cuts will take place". The lines are losing money and their axing will allow for an increase in services on better patronised lines. Amtrak has a \$200 million (£133 million) budget deficit and faces a \$50 million reduction in support.

Texas will be particularly badly hit. Eleven cities, including Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth and Mineola, will lose their passenger services. So will

President Clinton's political base, Little Rock, Arkansas.

The cuts will represent the biggest reduction in rail service since 1979, when the Carter Administration made sharp cutbacks in a network that once criss-crossed America. The mournful clanking bell of approaching trains is seldom heard in many parts of the US, where the car and the plane have come to rule.

Maintaining the miles of track across the continent played havoc with the economics of train travel, and passengers appeared to have less taste for communal voyaging than their European and Asian cousins.

Amtrak, which has struggled to keep down organised labour costs and could not shake off a downmarket, dodgy image, was also undone by its failure to keep to timetables. The public perception was unfair — trains are comfortable, the staff genial, and the vistas formidable — but passenger numbers remained disappointing.

Even before news of the cuts, railway enthusiasts were dispirited after Amtrak did away with some of the romantic names of its trains. Names such as The Senator and the Connecticut Yankee were replaced with "product lines and numbers". The Connecticut Yankee, connecting Massachusetts to Washington, became the Northeast Direct 142.

## Visitor boom in confident Canada

By JOHN YOUNG

AIR Canada's announcement that it is to operate daily flights to Calgary and Edmonton this winter, as against five a week last year, is evidence of the rising popularity of Canada as a winter sports destination.

In three years the numbers of British skiers travelling to Banff and Lake Louise in Alberta and to Whistler in British Columbia, has leapt from hundreds to more than 20,000.

Return fares from £439 may appear steep, but several well-known operators, including Crystal and Inghams, are offering competitive packages. Thanks to the relative weakness of the Canadian dollar, prices of hotels, meals, lifts and ski hire compare favourably with Europe. The season is generally longer, snow conditions more reliable, and in a straw poll last January British visitors commended the friendliness of the locals, the absence of lan-

guage difficulties and not being "ripped off".

With the summer tourist trade also booming, the number of UK visitors rose last year by nearly 12 per cent (compared with a fall of 3 per cent to the United States), and this year the Canadian Tourism Commission is predicting more than 650,000.

Confidence is evidenced by Canadian Pacific's £650 million programme to extend its 26 hotels, which include such famous landmarks as the Banff Springs and Chateau Lake Louise in the Rockies, the Empress in Victoria, British Columbia, the Chateau Frontenac in Quebec City and the Royal York in Toronto.

"Six or seven years ago our landmark hotels were frankly tired and living on their past reputation," says John Pyle, the company's eastern regional president. "But we are determined they should again be seen at their very best."

## Algarve £400m facelift

By MARTIN SYMINGTON

PLANS have been unveiled to turn the Algarve resort of Vilamoura into Europe's largest leisure complex. The £400 million project is to be completed over 20 years, according to André Jordan, chairman of Grupo André Jordan, which three months ago acquired a 38 per cent stake in the resort.

Two golf courses are to be added to the existing three; 6,000 villas and low-rise apartments are to be built, taking the total tourist capacity from the current 35,000 to 57,000. There are also plans to landscape 200 acres with lakes and canals to create a nature park, themed on marine life.

Other developments include an equestrian centre and a 7,000-capacity sports and entertainment arena. Work is expected to begin in January 1997. Top of the list is the first golf course, which former US Masters' champion Bernhard Langer has been commissioned to design.

## Credit hitch for hotel users

By DAVID CHURCHILL

BUSINESS travellers who use their credit cards as a guarantee when checking into hotels are warned that some international hotel chains are debiting "significant" amounts to their cards to cover the cost of the room and other charges even when guests plan to settle their accounts by other means. This can unknowingly leave travellers with little spare plastic credit for the rest of their trip.

The warning has come from the Guild of Business Travel Agents. Philip Carlisle, the Guild's chief executive, says the issue has been raised by a number of executives. "One executive was unable to hire a car when in America because the card's limit had been reached in this way, even though in theory he had plenty of credit left," he says. "Amounts can be debited to the card account even when the hotel bill is paid by other means, and this can render the card unusable for the remainder of a trip."

The problem only arises

with Visa, Mastercard and other credit cards which have a fixed limit. Charge cards such as American Express and Diners Club have no preset limit. Hotels run a credit check with their cards to ensure that the room bill is covered.

The Guild, however, wants hotels to advise customers, when they are taking a card imprint, of the guarantee amount that will be set against it. It also wants hotels to ensure that the amount is cleared from the credit card account immediately the customers settle the bill.

British Airways has linked up with Diners Club to launch a personal charge card offering Air Miles for most expenditure using the card. BA/Diners Club card holders will belong to BA's Executive Club and, in addition to a 300 Miles bonus on joining and a further bonus later on, will receive one Air Mile for every £5 spent on BA flights and one Mile for every £10 on other expenditure.

## Packages now cost less than in 1977

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

PACKAGE holiday prices have tumbled by almost half in the past 20 years. The dramatic fall, in real terms, of the cost of taking a foreign holiday has led to four times as many package tourists heading abroad by air and opened up many long distance destinations that were almost untouched in 1977.

The full extent of the drop in price was discovered by Thomson researchers who were trawling through old brochures in their head office.

"At first sight the prices in 1977 appeared low — but when you then took account of inflation it suddenly became apparent just how cheap they now are," says Gloria Ward who carried out the research. A 14-night package to the Hotel Santa Lucia in Majorca in May 1977, for example, cost £131, the equivalent of £435 today. Yet in the 1997 brochure the same holiday is £389. Seven nights in the Materada Hotel, Croatia — then a favourite destination for Britons — was £128 during the summer peak, £425 in today's money. The price in the 1997 brochure is £355. Further afield, Shaw Park Jamaica could offer 14 nights for £429



Jamaica: what was the equivalent of £1,425 is now £1,069

half board, or £1,425 now: the price today is £1,069 inclusive. The main reason for the drop, especially in long-haul travel, has been the introduction of charter aircraft on the popular routes. "Anyone can go to Australia for under £600 now, which was unthinkable 20 years ago," says Ms Ward. Anyone who has not booked for this summer, however, will find little still available and what there is will be at the full price.

Lunn Poly yesterday had a seven-night Airtours self-catering holiday to Majorca on

August 23 for £379 and there is a seven-night Horizon self-catering holiday at Los Gigantes, Tenerife, from Stansted on September 4, for £244. Last year operators were desperate to sell thousands of unsold holidays at the last moment. This year there are fewer available — and customers have to be quick. A colleague saw on Teletext a week's self-catering holiday in Majorca for £239 and rang immediately.

"I've just sold it," the telephonist said. "You're going to have to move faster than that!"

## Risk in the skies

ALMOST every day an airliner flying over Britain strays out of its assigned flight level, risking a mid-air collision, according to a new report by the Civil Aviation Authority. Harvey Elliott writes.

A safety survey of "level violations" in UK airspace during 1994 revealed that 235 aircraft strayed from the altitude they were assigned by ground controllers. The two main causes of the incidents — most of which took place when the aircraft were climbing between 3,000 and 12,000 feet — were pilot error or equipment malfunction.

Nearly 70 per cent of the violations involved foreign pilots and the survey calculated that 11 of the 235 reported incidents was caused by "pilot language difficulties". Twenty-two were regarded as "proximity hazards" and five were assessed as causing a real risk of collision.

Easily the main factor was aircrew not complying with air traffic control instructions, with altimeter setting errors, misreading and call sign confusion all high on the list of reasons for the "bust".

"The survey has confirmed and reinforced the growing concern about these potentially hazardous occurrences, especially as the majority occur in congested airspace where there is a greater chance of a mid-air collision," says the report. It urges all airlines to introduce "a standard, systematic flight-deck altitude awareness safety campaign" because, it says, procedures are not always complied with.

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Cruise between Aswan and Luxor on board the MS Ra

Travellers are returning to Egypt in great numbers but prices have not yet caught up with demand. Having secured some extraordinarily low tariffs in recent years, we are pleased to continue to offer this superior arrangement at attractive prices. This successful and popular journey is based on the first-class MS Ra Nile cruiser and the tour represents excellent value for money since the tariff includes all meals, transfers, guides and excursions. The journey commences with a direct flight from Gatwick to Aswan to join the MS Ra. Our week-long cruise will include visits to the Temples of Edfu, Esna, the Temple of Karnak, the Valley of the Kings, the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut, Luxor, Kom Ombo, and the Aswan High Dam.

**THE MS RA**

The MS Ra is a large Nile cruiser purpose built in Britain accommodating up to 140 passengers. Facilities on board include a restaurant, lounge, bar, sun deck with swimming pool, jacuzzi. All cabins are air conditioned and have private bathrooms. For a true escape with that magical combination of culture and relaxation this is surely an opportunity that should not be missed.

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Monday - per person in twin  
1996 September 3, 23, 30, £470

October 7, 14, £505  
October 28, £565  
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December 2, 9, £530  
December 16, £475  
December 23, 30, £625  
1997 January 6, 13, £505  
January 20, 27, £530  
February 3, 10, 17, 24, £565  
March 3, 10, 17, £530

Mar 24, £580 - Mar 31, £530  
April 7, 14, 21, 28, £510  
\*The first flight on each of these departure dates is at a special reduced tariff - £265 per person

**Supplements - per person**

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# It's safer than they think

Tour operators, we are told, are "sending British holidaymakers to hotels that are potential death traps". This is apparently "a scandal" and the question that urgently needs answering is "How many people must be maimed or killed before tour operators will take their responsibilities seriously?"

What a load of boloney. The Consumers' Association, which relies for its very existence on its ability to frighten nervous people into believing that anything they do or buy is dangerous and that the world is out to do them down, is yet again peddling scare stories.

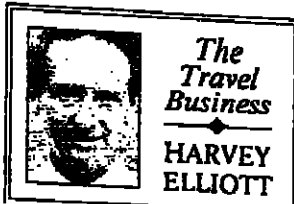
In the latest issue of *Holiday Which?*, the association claims to have found serious safety flaws in swimming pools, fire precautions, children's play areas, lifts and balconies in tourist accommodation in Turkey and Gran Canaria. Many of the hotels, it glibly states, failed even the safety standards of their own country.

Let's get things into perspective. About 13 million people take a package tour holiday every year. In 1995, 56 of them died while abroad. But 34 of these deaths were in traffic accidents and 12 were drownings in the sea. None of these could, therefore, reasonably be put down to a lack of concern being shown for safety by the tour operators.

For the third year in succession no one died in a fire, and there was only one swimming-pool fatality. There is cause for concern, however, over the six deaths caused by falls from balconies. And tour operators — whether the Consumers' Association accepts it or not — are worried and are now trying to establish whether there is some kind of pattern to the falls so that the most appropriate form of pressure can be put on hotel owners.

If, for example, the accident were happening to young children, a different approach would be needed than if the deaths were mainly among young men, perhaps acting out a Romeo role.

Tour operators are so concerned about safety that they



The Travel Business  
HARVEY ELLIOTT

employ dozens of inspectors to check hotels. Last year the leading tour operators spent £12 million on safety checks. And that at a time when the top 30 were losing a total of £9.9 million.

I am not simply defending tour operators, some of which I believe are irresponsible in using airlines that have too few planes to be able to ensure reliability, and which are cutting margins — and therefore standards — to the bone to achieve faster growth.

Holidays are supposed to be about fun and enjoyment. And when people are enjoying themselves, you cannot always legislate for their behaviour. When on holiday we tend to take risks we would never take at home. Even so, the 13 deaths by drowning while on package holidays last year compare with 473 deaths by drowning in Britain in the same period.

Is Britain really the paragon of safety the Consumers' Association would have us believe?

Young people are now demanding ever more exciting, adventurous travel, often in wild and untempered parts of the world where concern over rules and regulations is slim indeed, and even the most conservative holidaymaker is heading further afield, away from the standardised European package.

In the Caribbean, India, the Far East, South America and all the other exciting regions of the world which are now opening up, the holidaymaker is unlikely to find absolute conformity to some bureaucratic safety standard.

But the fun and the excitement will be there — without, I hope, some whey-faced warrior from *Holiday Which?* waiting that unless everyone complies with regulation X, Y and Z, we are all doomed.

## Bargains of the week — from 14 nights on a Tuscan wine estate to a trip to Tanzania

### HOTELS

GUESTS staying Friday and Saturday nights at the newly refurbished Glasgow Thistle hotel in October and November get the Sunday night free. Rooms cost £75 a night for an executive room and £90 for an executive studio for up to four people. Details: 0141-332 3311.

■ **DUKES** Hotel in St James's, central London, has a late summer offer until the end of the month of double rooms for £160 a night including VAT and breakfast, instead of the normal rate of £200. Details: 0171-491 4840.

■ **HIGHLIFE** Breaks has August bank holiday hotel bargains at up to 10 per cent off its normal brochure prices. Details: 0800 700 400.

■ **PLUMBER** Manor in Dorset is banking on Thomas Hardy being the next "rediscovered" English author. It is offering a "Hardy Heritage" weekend break on October 25-27 for £255 per person based on double occupancy. Details from Pride of Britain: 01264 736604.

■ **ETTINGTON** Park, voted the most haunted hotel in Britain by the AA, is hosting a ghost weekend on November 8 with guest speakers and a tour of its ghostly attractions. Costs for two nights in a double/twin room with dinner and admission to nearby Warwick Castle is £225 per person. Details: 01789 450123.

■ **LADIES** who lunch at the Four Seasons Hotel restaurant on Park Lane from September until the end of the year will be entitled to special services, including an initial 10 per cent discount from Selfridges' Personal Shopping department. Details: 0171-499 0888.

■ **SPECIAL** rates at the Conrad International Hurlingham on the shores of the Red Sea are £32 per person for double rooms per night and £55 single until the end of September. The rate at the Conrad Barcelona mentioned in last week's column should have been £72 per person per night plus VAT, based on a three-night stay. Details: 0990 445866.

■ **TICKETS** to the new £12 million Earth Galleries exhibit at the Natural History Museum are included in a special package at the four-star Chelsea Hotel in London's Knightsbridge from August 26 to 28 inclusive. The price of £99 per room per night includes accommodation for up to two adults and one child, full English breakfast and tickets. Details: 0171-838 9650.

■ **THE** Arkona Hotel Voltaire in Potsdam, has a special rate until the end of the year of DM198 (about £84) per room, per night, double occupancy and DM169 (£72) for single. Rates include buffet breakfast and service charge. Details through Prima Hotels: 0800 181 535.

■ **THE** Movenpick Jolie Ville Hotel in the Red Sea resort of Sharm El Sheikh is offering guests with Kuoni Travel a \$20 refund if it rains for more than five consecutive minutes in 24 hours during their holiday (until the end of October). A seven-night stay, including flights, from £499 per person. Details: 01306 743000.



Enjoy the fruits of a two-week self-catering stay in a vineyard in Chianti (see Holidays)

### CROSS CHANNEL

SALLY Ferries has introduced a flat rate return fare of £89 on its two routes from Ramsgate to Ostend or Dunkirk. The price covers a car, two adults and up to three children on selected sailings daily. Details: 0345 160000.

■ **STENA** Line has introduced daytrips to Dublin for foot passengers on its HSS fast ferry from Holyhead. Fares start at £19 per adult and from £48 for a family ticket — two adults and two children — to include train transfer to Dublin city centre. Details: 0990 707070.

■ **SCANDINAVIAN** Seaways has a special three-night break leaving Harwich next Tuesday for Gothenburg in Sweden. Prices start at £89 to include one night aboard while in port, a sightseeing tour of the city and breakfasts. Details: 0990 333222.

■ **UNTIL** September 30 P&O has excursion fares of £10 a car, £9 an adult and £5 a child from Portsmouth to Le Havre or Cherbourg with 36 hours ashore. Details: 0990 980980.

■ **SEACAT** Scotland expects its two millionth passenger on the Stranraer-Belfast route soon and is offering a reward of two flights to Venice and a return to London on the Orient Express. Details: 0345 523523.

■ **STENA** Line has discounts for camping and mobile homes in Brittany and on the Atlantic coast of France as well as the Riviera. Deals on hotels and apartments are also in its *Outstanding Offers* brochure. Details: 0990 747474.

### FLIGHTS

BAA, the airport operator, has launched its Bonus Points loyalty scheme at Heathrow. Membership is free, with card-holders earning points when they use one of Heathrow's commercial outlets. Details: 0800 844844.

■ **THE** Executive Club International (annual fee £55) is granting a 10 per cent discount on all published air fares booked and ticketed before August 31. Free membership for the first 20 callers from *The Times*. Details: 0181-686 0486.

■ **BRYMON** Airways has a £99 fare from Plymouth to Paris. Details: 0345 222111.

■ **BRITISH** Airways Express has £69 summer excursions between Gatwick and Antwerp, Amsterdam, Cologne, Düsseldorf and Rotterdam. Details: 0345 222111.

■ **DEBONAIR** is charging £59 one way for bookings made on its new Luton to Copenhagen service before August 22 for travel during October. Details: 0500 146200.

■ **GB** Airways has a £229 return fare to three destinations in Morocco: Agadir, Marrakesh and Tangier. Details: 0345 222111.

■ **TRAVELMOOD** has a cut-price £335 fare to Dubai flying with Alitalia. Book before August 31. Details: 0171-258 0280.

■ **TRAVEL** Warehouse has Malaysia Airlines flights of £540 to Kuala Lumpur and Penang until December 9. Details: 0171-414 8808.

### HOLIDAYS

TONY Blair's favourite holiday spot — Tuscany — still has room for visitors in September. Two weeks staying in a medieval wine estate in Chianti costs £1,139 for self-catering accommodation, flights, transfers, insurance and car hire. Details Cricketer Holidays: 01892 664242.

■ **THERE** are plenty of vacancies in France this autumn, too. A shared villa with pool in the Vendée for six people for one week will cost £639 through Connect France: 0181-715 1122.

■ **THE** Marquess of Northampton is offering a house party weekend at his home, Castle Ashby, from September 20-22. The weekend includes dinner hosted by the marquess and marchioness, clay pigeon shooting and carriage driving. Cost £350. Details: 01604 696696.

■ **A TAILOR-MADE** combination of the Greek islands of Santorini, Folegandros and Ios is available through Argo Holidays for £665 per person including flights, transfers and half board accommodation. Details: 0171-331 7070.

■ **WALKERS** of only moderate fitness could spend 14 days walking from Funchal to Ribeira Brava and Porto Moniz in Madeira with half-board accommodation from September 8 with Waymark Holidays. Details: 01753 516477.

■ **MEDITERRANEAN** Shipping Cruises is offering an 11-night "Highlights of Spain and North Africa" cruise on the *Monteney* departing from Genoa on September 21, October 2 and 15. The price of £864 per person includes flights from Heathrow, full board, transfers and entertainment. Details: 0171-637 2525.

■ **FIRST** World War tours to Ypres and Passendale, the Somme, Vimy Ridge and Arras in September and October are available through Galina Battlefield Tours from £99 for three days. Details: 01482 806020.

■ **THROUGHOUT** November, Worldwide Journeys & Expeditions is offering a Classic Tanzania safari for £1,985 per person inclusive of all meals, accommodation, transport, fees and flights. The 12-day trip takes in Arusha, Lake Manyara, the Serengeti, the Ngorongoro Crater and Tarangire national park. Details: 0171-381 8638.

■ **SPEND** the bank holiday in Peregrine Cottage, Ross-on-Wye which featured in the film *Shadowlands*. It is ideal for fishing and bird-watching. Cost through Blakes Country Cottages is £393 a week. Details: 01282 445 097.

■ **THERE** are a few spaces left on the August 24 adventure holidays to Austria, including white water rafting, paragliding, trekking, skiing and mountain biking. Three sports will cost £415 and all five £465 with Tall Stories. Details: 01932 252002.

■ **AIR** Liberté's fare from Gatwick to Bordeaux and Toulouse is now £140 return and no longer £99. In September and October it drops to a minimum of £129 return. Details: 0345 228899.

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## NEWS

## Scramble for university places

Record A-level pass rates to be announced today will trigger an unprecedented scramble for places at leading universities and increase pressure on the Government to reform the examinations system.

More than half of this autumn's 290,000 higher education places had been filled as admissions tutors coped with the 15th successive rise in A-level grades. Pages 1, 8, 9

## British soldiers wounded in Cyprus

Two British soldiers serving with the United Nations force in Cyprus were wounded during renewed clashes between troops from the Turkish-occupied north of the island and Greek Cypriot demonstrators. The two soldiers from 39 Regiment Royal Artillery suffered gunshot wounds while trying to hold back protesters at Dherinia. Page 1

## Mail order murder

Pressure for a ban on the private ownership of handguns intensified after a man who bought a semi-automatic pistol through mail order was jailed for murder. Pages 1, 3

## Portillo problem

Michael Portillo's difficulties over the proposed sale of his local Tory headquarters to McDonald's deepened when it was disclosed that Central Office will benefit by up to £100,000. Pages 1, 2

## Consultants resign

The chairman of a hospital trust was forced out of his job after a mass resignation by 16 of his leading consultants. Page 2

## Guarding the guards

Thousands of private guards face vetting by a special agency under Home Office proposals to clean up the security industry. Page 2

## Rottweiler attack

Two boys told an inquest jury how they watched Rottweiler dogs savage an 11-year-old friend to death. Anthony Pickup, 13, and Mark Farran, 10, said "three big black dogs" tore David Kearney apart. Page 3

## Parents mourn vicar

The parents of the Rev Christopher Gray, the vicar who was stabbed to death outside his vicarage in Liverpool, spoke movingly of how he had given himself to the Church. Page 5

## Prize dog drugged by rival owner

A woman who gave a prize chihuahua a valium tablet shortly before it was due to compete in a top dog show was banned from the Kennel Club for five years. The pill, administered by Carol Brampton, a dog owner from Faversham, Kent, left Chizzy incapable of standing or wagging her tail, the disciplinary committee was told. Page 1

## Water in space

New pictures of one of Jupiter's moons, Europa, have provided tantalising hints that icy floes on its surface may be floating on slush or even water. Page 5

## Wind farm fears

A plan to build the world's largest offshore wind farm two miles from the Norfolk coast provoked serious concern among naturalists about the effect on seals and birds. Page 6

## Palatial home

For King Cogidubnus, chief of a British tribe, it was home. For anyone else, the palace at Fishbourne was a feat of engineering and craftsmanship: Roman Britain. Page 10

## Grozny attack

A Russian strike by Sukhoi 25 ground attack jets on a district of Grozny occurred exactly five minutes after hostilities were supposed to have ended after more than a week of clashes. Page 11

## Powell boost

As the Republican Party convention prepared to anoint Bob Dole his aides were plotting ways to boost his electoral appeal by exploiting Colin Powell. Page 12

## Elephant crisis

Conservationists reacted with outrage to an upsurge in illegal professional hunting of semi-tame elephants from Kenya's Amboseli Park. Page 13



The Prince of Wales toasts the Croatian Prime Minister Zlatko Matijašević on the island of St Marie during his cruise of the Adriatic

## BUSINESS

Jobs: Unemployment fell to its lowest for five years with the underlying trend continuing downwards, according to the Office for National Statistics. Page 23

Lloyds: The £3.2 billion rescue plan is an unlawful scheme which "infringes fundamental principles" governing the insurance market, the High Court heard. Page 23

In the red: A poor performance by the Balfour Beatty contracting business plunged BICC, the construction and cables group, into the red. Page 23

Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index 6.9 to 3830.3. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from \$4.6 to \$4.8 after falling from \$1.508 to \$1.506 but rising from DM2.289 to DM2.3005. Page 26

## SPORT

Football: Arsenal bought two French players despite the fact that they have no manager. Aston Villa signed the Yugoslav midfielder player, Sasa Curcic, for £4 million from Bolton Wanderers. Pages 41, 44

Cricket: Pakistan, fresh from their draw with England in the second Test match at Headingley, struggled on an unhelpful pitch to only 221 all out against Leicestershire. Page 42

Equestrianism: Geoff Billington, of Britain, will lead the line-up of Olympic riders who will compete in the Silk Cut Derby meeting starting at Hickstead today. Page 38

Racing: Dermot Weld, the Irish trainer, is geared to extending his success on international racecourses. Page 39

## ARTS

Jack's out: New films include: *The Crossing Guard* with Jack Nicholson; Sharon Stone as a murderer in *Last Dance: Hunger Artist*, a short but invigorating British work by Bernard Rudden. Page 31

Releases: *A Little Princess*, *Smithereens* and *When Saturday Comes* on video; songs by Clara and Robert Schumann on CD. Page 32

Edinburgh nights: Robert Wilson's staging of Virginia Woolf's *Orlando* proves monotonous; but the Mark Morris Dance Group's fifth consecutive visit to the festival provides a stimulating evening of modern dance. Page 33

Last night: Thirty-five years after his Proms debut, Barry Tuckwell played his swansong in Mozart's Third Horn Concerto. Page 33

## FEATURES

Heady mixture: Nicholas Soames declares he has taken nun-like vows of poverty, chastity and obedience — but loves foie gras, champagne, venison, music, parties and girls. Page 15

Dr Thomas Stuttaford writes on improving the safety of babies and the health of mothers during and after childbirth; the danger signs of violence; asthma's link to snails; and measles. Page 14

## BOOKS

Spill for choice: Jonathan Mirsky on handing over Hong Kong; Glyn Maxwell on William Morris in Iceland; Gery physics: a fine first novel. Pages 34, 35

## TRAVEL

Clean air campaign: The Scottish Tourist Board is starting a poster campaign promoting the freshness of the Highlands. Page 20

Bargains: From two weeks on a wine estate in Tuscany to a 12-day safari in Tanzania. Page 21

## THE PAPERS

Turkey is trying to act as a bridge between the Balkans, the Middle East, the Gulf, the Caucasus and Central Asia. Turkey's war against the Kurds could easily degenerate into an Algerian-type conflict, which in turn would destabilise the region, which would involve us all. — *Il Messaggero*, Rome

## TV LISTINGS

Preview: In 1974, the Prime Minister was convinced that renegade MI5 officers were trying to undermine his Government. *Harold Wilson — the Final Days* (Channel 4, 9.00pm) Review: Peter Barnard is inspired by a Russian strongman's determination. Page 43

## OPINION

## Dole's dream team

The issue is not whether Mr Dole can give his blessing to General Powell but whether it is in his interests to do so. Page 17

## Priests in the city

It would be easy to despair but Father Gray's own example encourages a hope that the best answer to human misery is not retreat but positive engagement. Page 17

## Far-flung phoenicians

To a still greater extent than the Vikings, Dutch or Portuguese after them, the Phoenicians left little mark on land. Their claim is on the imagination. Page 17

## COLUMNS

## WILLIAM REES-MOGG

The trouble with Europe is that people do not trust the bureaucrats, and the bureaucrats certainly do not trust the people. Page 16

## MAGNUS LINKLATER

The Stone of Destiny deserves a hallowed place in Scotland, but one that is independent of religious factions. It should go to the great National War Memorial in Edinburgh castle, a building dedicated to Scotland's people. Page 16

## ROBERT RUNCIE

The urban vicarage continues to be a sanctuary in what for many has become a hostile world. If there is no one to fall back on, there is always the vicar. Page 16

## JOHN BRYANT

There are, apparently, plans afoot to give Redgrave a civic reception when he goes back to Marlow, where they know a thing or two about rowing. Let's hope they are in style. Page 42

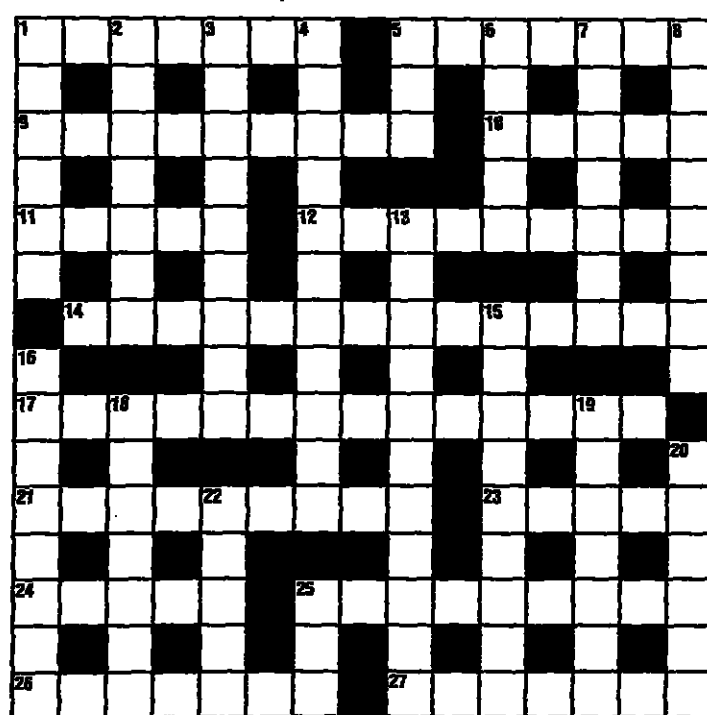
## OBITUARIES

Captain Bobby Petre, jockey: John Langan, operatic tenor: Richard Goodwin, economist. Page 19

## LETTERS

Modern medicine: Sir Frank White, new telephone boxes: dry free: postal dispute: Robert the Bruce: Britten statue. Page 17

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,247



- ACROSS
- Meet in a bar (7).
  - Weapon replacing the mace (7).
  - State opening mostly generating heat (9).
  - Give more drink to young boxer, say (3,2).
  - Portrayed doctor with beard (5).
  - Perhaps Arab people developed shore? (9).
  - Disorder creating pain so? (6,8).
  - Cabinet-makers one's employed in the best church buildings (5,9).
  - Fashionable passage to New Zealand attracts a complaint (9).
  - Decisive defence one needed after jumping bail (5).
  - Useless record held by silly nit (5).
  - Very valuable diamonds left in cupboard (9).

- DOWN
- Compound charge in hours of darkness, we hear (7).
  - Conductor needs a little time to take a rest when agitated (7).
  - Rotter in US intelligence is a chirpy type (6).
  - Forget a French king's name (7).
  - Norse god is held by woman to rule with an iron hand (9).
  - Religious revolution helping to usher in English ceremony (11).
  - This could keep you dry as river's rising (3).
  - Get hold of spiteful woman before church (5).
  - Outside theatre, capital raised for so-called musical work (7).
  - Drink served in Conservatives' Press Office (8).
  - Result of overreaching? (11).
  - Four identical notes about a confidential meeting (4-1-4).
  - Work painter said he could help one see better (8).
  - Spread complaint about Liberal decline? (7).
  - Intend to split regular payments for chess (7).
  - Raise provided as business calamity ensues (6).
  - Extremist last month given right to have article (5).
  - Parking? That's an easy thing (3).

Times Two Crossword, page 44

## TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0800 1000 followed by appropriate code

Region	Code
Greater London	701
East of London	702
West of London	703
South East	704
South West	705
West Midlands	706
East Midlands	707
North East	708
North West	709
Yorkshire & the Humber	710
West Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
North East	713
North West	714
Yorkshire & the Humber	715
West Midlands	716
East Midlands	717
North East	718
North West	719
Yorkshire & the Humber	720
West Midlands	721
East Midlands	722
North East	723
North West	724
Yorkshire & the Humber	725
West Midlands	726
East Midlands	727
North East	728
North West	729
Yorkshire & the Humber	730
West Midlands	731
East Midlands	732
North East	733
North West	734
Yorkshire & the Humber	735
West Midlands	736
East Midlands	737
North East	738
North West	739
Yorkshire & the Humber	740
West Midlands	741
East Midlands	742
North East	743
North West	744
Yorkshire & the Humber	745
West Midlands	746
East Midlands	747
North East	748
North West	749
Yorkshire & the Humber	750

## AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA roadwatch information, 24 hours a day, dial 0300 401 followed by appropriate code

Region	Code
Greater London	701
East of London	702
West of London	703
South East	704
South West	705
West Midlands	706
East Midlands	707
North East	708
North West	709
Yorkshire & the Humber	710
West Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
North East	713
North West	714
Yorkshire & the Humber	715
West Midlands	716
East Midlands	717
North East	718
North West	719
Yorkshire & the Humber	720
West Midlands	721
East Midlands	722
North East	723
North West	724
Yorkshire & the Humber	725
West Midlands	726
East Midlands	727
North East	728
North West	729
Yorkshire & the Humber	730
West Midlands	731
East Midlands	732
North East	733
North West	734
Yorkshire & the Humber	735
West Midlands	736
East Midlands	737
North East	738
North West	739
Yorkshire & the Humber	740
West Midlands	741
East Midlands	742
North East	743
North West	744
Yorkshire & the Humber	745
West Midlands	746
East Midlands	747
North East	748
North West	749
Yorkshire & the Humber	750

## HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun sets: 5.46 am Sun sets: 3.20 pm  
Moon sets: 8.32 am Moon rises: 7.02 am

## First quarter August 22

London 8.24 pm to 5.48 am  
Bristol 8.22 pm to 5.46 am  
Edinburgh 8.27 pm to 5.50 am  
Perthshire 8.40 pm to 6.15 am

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See Tables p.34

Air UK

## FORECAST

General: England and Wales will be dry with sunny spells after mist clears; patchy drizzle in the east, but there should be some afternoon sun over East Anglia. It will be fairly warm. Scotland and Northern Ireland will have some sunny spells. But thickening cloud will bring rain and drizzle to parts of western Scotland later.

London, E & W Midlands, Cent N England: patchy drizzle, then dry with sunny spells. Wind light and variable. Max 22C (72F).

S E England, E Anglia, E England: low cloud and drizzle slowly clearing, sunny spells developing. Wind mainly northeast, light. Max 22C (72F), but cooler near coasts.

Cent S, S W, N W, N E England, Channel Isles, S & N Wales, Lake District, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee: early mist, then sunny periods. Wind light and variable, but easterly breezes. Max 22C (72F).

Isle of Man, Aberdeen, S W, N E Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Moray Firth, N Ireland: sunny spells but clouds increasing. Wind south to southwest, light or moderate. Max 22C (72F).

Angryl, N W Scotland: clouds thickening, rain later. Wind southerly moderate or fresh. Max 18C (64F).

Orkney, Shetland: mainly dry, but clouds increasing. Wind southerly moderate or fresh. Max 18C (64F).

Outlook: patchy rain in northwest at first, otherwise dry and sunny.

## AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Aberdeen	10	10	10	10	10	10
Cardiff	10	10	10	10	10	10
Edinburgh	10	10	10	10	10	10
London	10	10	10	10	10	10
Manchester	10	10	10	10	10	10
Newcastle	10	10	10	10	10	10
Nottingham	10	10	10	10	10	10
Sheffield	10	10	10	10	10	10
Sunderland	10	10	10	10	10	10
Swansea	10	10	10	10	10	10
Torquay	10	10	10	10	10	10
Wrexham	10	10	10	10	10	10
York	10	10	10	10	10	10

## ABROAD

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Algeria	21	10	10	21	10	10
Amman	21	10	10	21	10	10
Baghdad	21	10	10	21	10	10
Bombay	21	10	10	21	10	10
Buenos Aires	21	10	10	21	10	10
Calcutta	21	10	10	21	10	10
Cairo	21	10	10	21	10	10
Colon	21	10	10	21	10	10
Hong Kong	21	10	10	21	10	10
London	21	10	10	21	10	10
Madras	21	10	10	21	10	10
Manila	21	10	10	21	10	10
Medan	21	10	10	21	10	10
Mumbai	21	10	10	21	10	10
Perth	21	10	10	21	10	10
Rangoon	21	10	10	21	10	10
Seoul	21	10	10	21	10	10
Singapore	21	10	10	21	10	10
Tokyo	21	10	10	21	10	10
Yokohama	21	10	10	21	10	10

## HIGHEST &amp; LOWEST

Yesterday, highest day temp: Seoul, 26C (79F); lowest day temp: London, 12C (54F); highest rainfall: Perth, 10.0mm; lowest rainfall: London, 0.0mm; highest sunshine: London, 12.5h.

## RESCUE UPDATE - 15 AUGUST 1996

Total number of lives saved so far this year: 331  
Total number of lifeboat launches so far this year: 1,952  
Cost to RNLI per day: £173,000  
Cost to taxpayer: £0  
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## NOON TODAY

